GONDA:

A GAZETTEER,

BEING

VOLUME XLIV

OF THE

DISTRICT GAZETTEERS OF THE UNITED PROVINCES OF AGRA AND OUDH.

COMPILED AND EDITED BY

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PREFACE.

THE portion of the old Oudh Gazetteer referring to the Gonda district was mainly the work of Mr. W. C. Benett, who also wrote the report on the first regular settlement. Much of this is of permanent value, as also were the contributions of Dr. W. Hoey. The scheme of the present Gazetteers has necessitated a complete re-arrangement and the introduction of much new material, for the collection of which I am greatly indebted to Mr. L. C. Porter and Mr. E. de M. Humphries, successively Deputy Commissioners. I must also express my acknowledgements to Mr. H. R. C. Hailey, who, by his intimate knowledge of the district and his ready help and advice, has afforded me valuable assistance.

NAINI TAL:
August 1905.

H. R. N.

GAZETTEER OF GONDA.

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ABBREVIATIONS.

J. R. A. S.—Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society.

J. A. S. B.—Journal of the Bengal Asiatic Society.

A. S. N. I.—Archæological Survey of Northern India.

E. H. I.—The History of India as told by its own Historians, by Sir H. M. Elliot, K.C.B.

GAZETTEER OF GONDA.

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REFERENCES.

Chief Town	GONDA
Tahsil	UTRAULA
Pargana Capital	MANKAPUR
Thana or Police Station	Birpur
Town or Village	*Ata*
Metalled Road	
Unmetalled Road	
District Boundary	
Tahsil ,,	
Pargana ,,	
Forest ,,	
Railway	
Guwarich Pargana	1
Burhapara Pargana	2
Babhnipair Pargana	3

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CHAPTER I.

General Features.

The district of Gonda lies in the north of Oudh, and together with Bahraich comprises the portion of the Fyzabad division between the Ghagra and the outer ranges of the Himalayas. To the north the district marches with Nepalese territory, the boundary being artificial throughout, and marked by a line cleared through the forest with masonry pillars at fixed intervals. On the east the Arrah river separates Gonda from Nepal for some twenty-two miles, and the remaining portion of the boundary is formed by the Basti district as far south as the Ghagra; the dividing line is partly conventional and partly supplied by the Burhi Rapti, Rapti, Suwawan, Kuwana, and Manwar rivers. The southern borders are washed by the Ghagra, beyond which lie the districts of Fyzabad and Bara Banki; while on the west is Bahraich, separated, where possible, by various rivers and streams, but more frequently by artificial boundaries. The district is one of the largest in Oudh, its area being only exceeded in the case of Kheri. In shape it is a very irregular oblong, narrowest in the middle and widest towards the extremities; the greatest length is sixty-eight miles and the greatest width sixty-six miles. The area, according to the returns of the last survey, was 2,809·54 square miles, of which 158·86 square miles were Government forest. The extremes of latitude and longitude are 26° 46′ and 27° 50′ north, 81° 33′ and 82° 46′ east. Boundaries and area.

The whole tract falls naturally into three divisions. To the north is the *tarai*, extending southwards from the forests at the foot of the hills to the Rapti and the villages immediately under the influence of that river on its south bank. This portion includes the whole of the large pargana of Tulsipur, the greater part of Balrampur, and the northern edge of Utraula. As in all the submontane tracts, it lies low, water is very near the surface, and floods are frequent. In the north the innumerable torrents bring Physical aspects.

down quantities of boulders and *débris* from the hills, and their broad beds are covered with shingle and sand; but further south swamps are frequent and the soil is a heavy clay, admirably suited for the growth of the fine rice for which Tulsipur has long been famous. This part of the district is, however, very unhealthy, owing to the prevalence and severity of malarial fever.

The *uparhar*.

The *tarai* gives place to the central upland plain or *uparhar*, which extends from the line of the Rapti to a broken sandy ridge, known as the *uparhar* edge, running from north-west to south-east a few miles north of the Terhi river and passing a short distance to the south of the town of Gonda. The edge is in places well defined, especially in the west, and resembles the bank of a river, as at one time it undoubtedly was; but towards the south-east it tends to disappear, and its place is taken by sandhills or merely a narrow strip of uneven ground. The whole *uparhar* tract is a slightly raised plateau, a continuation of the central portion of Bahraich; its surface is broken by the various rivers and drainage channels, which divide the tract into series of fertile plains separated by uneven spaces of poorer quality. In many parts the thick growth of trees and stretches of scrub jungle bear testimony to the time when the whole was covered with forest, and still render further reclamation a laborious and expensive task. There are two large expanses of forest remaining—the Tikri reserve in the south-east, and that along the banks of the Kuwana, belonging to private owners. Both stand in thickly populated and well-developed centres and, by harbouring herds of destructive wild animals, greatly affect the security of the surrounding villages. The *uparhar* embraces the remainder of the Utraula tahsil, the large pargana of Gonda, and portions of Mahadewa and Nawabganj.

The *tarhar*.

The remainder of the district, from the *uparhar* edge to the Ghagra, comprising nearly the whole of the Tarabganj tahsil and the Paharapur pargana, constitutes the lowlying tract known as the *tarhar*, or moist area. The general level is some fifteen feet below that of the uplands, from which it has been cut away by the action of the Ghagra and its tributaries. The whole of the *tarhar* is covered with a network of small streams, and in wet years a large portion of it is liable to inundation. The subsoil

is everywhere composed of pure river sand, betraying its origin, and above this is a crust of alluvial loam of varying thickness and quality. The fertility of the soil varies inversely with the proximity of the sand to the surface and the degree to which it is mixed with the loam. The distribution of this deposit is by no means even, as in places ridges of sand crop up, while between them are depressions with a loam soil of great fertility. Owing to the small depth below the surface at which water is found, the villages of the *tarhar* are in no danger from drought and in famine years, as was notably the case in 1896, enormous profits were derived from the abundant harvest of maize. On the other hand, this part of the district is liable to suffer damage in seasons of heavy floods from abnormal rainfall, especially in the south of Digsir. This was the case in 1894, when the widespread inundation was followed by an outbreak of sickness and the death-rate rose to an unusual figure.

The geology of the district exposes nothing but the ordinary Gangetic alluvium, with the slight exception of the boulders and detritus brought down by the hill torrents in the north. The soil is consequently of a similar character throughout, and its composition depends solely on the level and the depth at which water is found below the surface. The slope of the country, which lies from north-west to south-east, is very slight. In the extreme north it is about 390 feet above the level of the sea, and from this it drops to 360 feet at Tulsipur and 350 feet at Balrampur. The central plateau is slightly higher than this in the north-west, the level near Kauria station being 366 feet; but towards the south-east it drops steadily, and in the north of Nawabganj, near the Basti district border, it is not more than 325 feet. The *tarhar* is the lowest part of the district, with heights ranging from 355 feet at Colonelganj to about 310 feet opposite Ajodhya. Levels.

The soil of the *tarai* is generally a stiff, heavy clay, but in places this gives way to a rich alluvial loam. In the *uparhar* loam predominates to the extent of about two-thirds, while the remainder, which is found in parts of pargana Mankapur, the high land adjoining the rivers, and the *uparhar* edge, is of a lighter quality and contains a larger proportion of sand. Generally speaking, the soil is best in the eastern parganas of Utraula and Soils.

Burhapara, while to the west the quality declines. In the *tarhar* the soil, as already mentioned, is a light and porous loam, in places, and especially along the Terhi, degenerating into almost pure sand. There is practically no clay in the *tarhar*, and the sandy soils, though light and weak, have not the worse defects of what is known as *bhúr* in other parts of Oudh. Another feature is the comparative absence of *úsar* from all parts of the district. Owing to the small difference between the various kinds of soils and the gradual nature of the transition from clay to loam and from loam to sand, the demarcation of the soil areas at both the regular settlements was effected on a conventional classification. As in most Oudh districts, three classes of soil were selected, depending on their distance from their homestead and the consequent amount of manure and attention received by each. The highly manured zone near the village site is known as *goind*, the middle zone as *manjhar*, and the outlying fields as *pálo*. Their application is a matter of great difficulty in this district owing to the constant tendency of the inhabitants to disperse into a number of small hamlets rather than concentrate into a single site ; at the last settlement there were on an average six hamlets to each village. The result is that the land in the vicinity of these hamlets does not receive the same amount of manure and is not equal in quality to the first class *goind* land near large villages; but, on the other hand, the number of these hamlets keeps up a fair standard of cultivation throughout the village and, by bringing the cultivator nearer his fields and facilitating the carriage of manure, raises the quality of the middle and outlying areas. This is illustrated by the results of the last settlement, when only 5·39 per cent. of the land was demarcated as *goind*, while 58·4 per cent. was classed as *manjhar*, and 36·21 per cent. as *pálo*.

Rivers.

The drainage of the country follows the general slope of the country and runs from north-west to south-east, the direction generally taken by all the rivers, the chief of which traverse the whole breadth of the district. The rivers belong to two main systems, that of the Rapti in the north and the Ghagra in the south. Each is fed by numerous tributaries, but the majority of the latter are of little importance, as they only

serve to carry off the surface water during the wet season of the year.

The basin of the Rapti lies wholly in the *tarai*, the Suwawan, which is its only southern affluent of any importance, generally marking the northern boundary of the *uparhar*. The Rapti rises in the mountains of Nepal, and after traversing the Bahraich district enters Gonda on the western border of the Balrampur pargana near the village of Mathura. It flows thence in a very tortuous course through Balrampur as far as the Utraula boundary, and then separates the two parganas till it reaches the Basti district at Materia Ghat. At that point it bends southwards and forms the district boundary as far as its junction with the Suwawan in the south-east of pargana Utraula. The Rapti is a large and rapid stream and is navigable throughout its length in this district during the rains and cold weather; a certain amount of grain is still transported in this way, and considerable quantities of timber are floated down from the Bahraich forests; but, owing to the numerous bends in the river, navigation is a matter of some danger and difficulty. The banks are usually high, but the river is continually changing its course. It only overflows its banks in very wet seasons, but then, instead of covering the submerged land with sand, it usually leaves behind a deposit of rich loam. The only bridge over the Rapti is that by which the railway crosses the river between Balrampur and Tulsipur; elsewhere communication between the two banks is kept up by means of ferries, of which a considerable number are maintained by the district board.

Rapti river.

On either side of the Rapti, but especially on the north, the country is cut up by innumerable deserted channels of the river. Many of these contain water for a portion of the year, but the only one which can be considered a definite stream is that known as the Burhi Rapti. This begins near Mathura and flows across the district in a direction roughly parallel to that of the main river as far as the Basti border. Thence, instead of turning south, it maintains an easterly course and for a considerable distance separates the Tulsipur pargana from Basti, leaving the district in the extreme south-east corner of Tulsipur at its junction with the Arrah. This river intercepts the waters of all

Burhi Rapti.

the tributary streams which bring down the drainage from the hills to the north and consequently attains at times large proportions. In wet years it overflows its banks and practically forms one stream with the Rapti, almost the whole of the intervening country being under water.

Hill torrents. The tributaries of the Burhi Rapti are exceedingly numerous, and many of them are known by different names in different portions of their course. They all bear a general resemblance to one another, being hill torrents of the usual description with broad boulder-strewn beds. In the dry weather they either disappear or else carry down an insignificant amount of water, but in the rains they are subject to sudden freshets and are rapidly transformed into rushing rivers, which do much damage to the land in their neighbourhood and frequently cover the fields with a deposit of barren sand. In the north of Tulsipur their number is legion and every little *nala* has its name. Then as they unite with one another their number decreases, but a great many continue an independent course southwards as far as the Burhi Rapti. The most important of these are shown in the map. The largest, from west to east, are the Kharjhar, Karwi, Kakraha, Katha, Bhambhar, Banrua, and Arrah.

Suwawan. To the south of the Rapti is the Suwawan, flowing along the extreme southern edge of the *tarai*. It rises near the western border and passes close to the town of Balrampur, thence flowing through the north of the Utraula pargana and eventually joining the Rapti at Rasulabad on the Basti border. The Suwawan is a sluggish stream with an exceedingly tortuous course. In places its bed is ill-defined, and for a short distance to the east of Balrampur its course resembles rather a succession of jhils than a river. Further east the channel is deeper and more clearly marked, and before it joins the Rapti it has become a river of considerable proportions.

Kuwana. The other rivers and streams of the district belong to the Ghagra system and flow through the *uparhar* and *tarhar*. The northernmost is the Kuwana, which rises in Bahraich and after a course of some ten miles enters this district at the extreme north-western corner of pargana Gonda. It thence flows along the northern borders of the pargana as far as the boundary

of the Utraula tahsil, and then separates Sadullahnagar from pargana Utraula, afterwards forming the dividing line between Burhapara and the Basti district. The river is fed by a few small tributaries flowing down from the *uparhar*, such as the Jaida and Pirar in the north of Gonda, the Singha in Sadullahnagar, and an insignificant watercourse which has no distinctive name flowing through the central portion of Utraula. The Kuwana is a sluggish stream with a well-defined bed and rarely changes its course. Its banks are still to a large extent covered with dense jungle, but the area is much smaller than formerly: most of it was sold in the form of grants in fee-simple grants, such as the large Kishanpur and Rampur grants in Sadullahnagar and Daulatabad and Gajpur in Utraula. The Kuwana is bridged where the railway crosses it, and also on the roads from Gonda to Balrampur and Utraula and from Utraula to Nawabganj.

South of the Kuwana is the Bisuhi, a small stream of a similar character. It rises in pargana Ikauna of Bahraich and enters this district on the western borders of pargana Gonda. It flows for some way nearly due east, and then, after having traversed the whole of the north of Gonda, takes a southerly course and enters the Utraula tahsil, where it separates Sadullahnagar from Mankapur and Burhapara from Babhnipair; it leaves the district after a course of seventy miles just before its junction with the Kuwana. Like the latter river, it has generally a deep bed and seldom causes any damage by inundation. In the eastern parts of its course the jungles, which once clothed its banks throughout, still remain, and in places dense thickets of *jamun* trees are to be seen growing in the middle of the bed. The *mahua*, too, grows along its banks in great profusion, and occasionally there are large cane-brakes of considerable value. The river when it enters the district is from ten to fifteen yards in width, but it gradually increases to an average breadth of forty or fifty yards. It is never, however, very deep and soon after the rains is fordable in many places. It is crossed by bridges on the railway and on the roads from Gonda to Balrampur and Utraula and from the latter place to Nawabganj. Bisuhi.

Further south is the Manwar, an insignificant stream, which Manwar. rises in the centre of pargana Gonda, then flows through the

middle of pargana Mankapur, and after skirting the Tikri forest, enters the Basti district. The Manwar is a small river with a very irregular channel, and the ground in its neighbourhood is often clothed with jungle, while in places there are wide stretches of poor soil covered with grass. At the point where it leaves the district the Manwar is joined by a small stream known as the Chamnai, which rises near Bidianagar, and after separating the Mankapur and Mahadewa parganas winds round the western and southern edge of the Tikri forest. The Chamnai is a very sluggish stream, and the ground in its neighbourhood is generally swampy, rendering the passage difficult at all times of the year. Both these rivers are bridged on the road from Nawabganj to Utraula.

Terhi.

Beneath the southern edge of the *uparhar* flows the Terhi, a stream which rises in Bahraich and is fed by the waters of the great Baghel Tal near Payagpur. It enters the district on the extreme west of pargana Gonda, then separates that pargana from Paharapur and Guwarich, and further east forms the boundary between the Mahadewa and Digsir parganas. Leaving these it flows through the south of Nawabganj and joins the Ghagra a few miles above Ajodhya. The Terhi, as its name implies, has a very winding and irregular course. Although in former days it appears to have changed its channel repeatedly, the results of this being found in the legend of the destruction of Khurasa, it now flows in a well-defined bed, though in places it is fringed by swampy ground. Elsewhere, and especially in pargana Digsir, its banks are high and sandy, and the land in its neighbourhood is of a very inferior description. During the rains the river swells to a considerable size, but at other times it only carries a small volume of water and is useless for navigation. The Terhi is fed by a number of small streams, the chief of which are the Chandaha, which joins it near Tarabganj, and the Bagluha, which flows through the centre of Digsir and the west of Nawabganj.

Sarju.

Between the Terhi and the Ghagra there are several small streams, especially in the Guwarich pargana, flowing into the latter river. The chief of these is the Sarju, which rises in Bahraich and joins the main stream near Paska. Others are

the Kundwa and Bilai, which unite near Begamganj and flow into the Ghagra near Dalelnagar. All these streams are insignificant drainage channels of little use or importance, but at all times of the year rendering communication difficult. When the *tarhar* is inundated after heavy rains, they increase in volume and often do much damage by inundation, while on such occasions they are very apt to change their course.

Ghagra.

The Ghagra is the name given to the united waters of the Kauriala, Sarju, and Chauka and other rivers which drain the submontane tract to the west of this district. It enters Gonda in the extreme west of pargana Guwarich, and then flows along the southern borders, leaving the district at Lakarmandi opposite Ajodhya, the distance between its entry and exit being about 55 miles. The river has carved for itself a deep and wide bed, within which it rolls from side to side, varying its channel almost every year among the shifting sandy banks. The land along the river on either side is always liable to be cut away during the rains, and for this reason the area of the district is liable to annual variations. The river is navigable throughout by boats of considerable burthen: a large trade is still carried on between Bahramghat and the riverside markets lower down, but the volume has greatly decreased by reason of the development of the railway system and especially since the construction of the great Elgin bridge. Steamers ascend the river from Patna and other markets of Bengal as far as Ajodhya. The only bridge over the river in this district is the bridge of boats between Lakarmandi and Ajodhya. Elsewhere the crossing has to be made by boats, and numerous ferries are maintained by the district board.

Lakes and jhils.

The whole district is studded with numberless lakes and jhils, many of which are of considerable size and form a valuable addition to the water supply. The character of these jhils varies according to the locality. In the *tarai* and the *tarhar* they are generally formed by the action of the rivers in changing their beds, and some of them closely resemble the great *dahars* of Kheri, which have a similar origin. Their shape is that of a horse-shoe, and on the convex side the bank is usually high and sandy. Such jhils were once merely a bend of a stream,

which has become silted up at either end. In the *uparhar* and elsewhere they generally consist of shallow depressions in the surface, in which the drainage water collects, while the larger groups of jhils sometimes represent ill-defined lines of drainage, which only develop into streams in years of abnormal rainfall. Such are the jhils round Khargupur in the north of Gonda, the Sohela Tal in the centre of the same pargana, and those in the west of Babhnipair. In the *tarhar* the principal series of jhils is that in the Nawabganj and Mahadewa parganas, the chief of them being the Parbati and Argha Tals, which undoubtedly represent the abandoned course of some river. In the *tarai* there are innumerable swamps along both sides of the Rapti and throughout the lowlying rice tract. In 1904 there were, exclusive of the area comprising the reserved forest, no less than 105,191 acres under water, or 6·2 per cent. of the whole area of the district. Most of this was occupied by lakes and jhils, though the figures also include the rivers. The proportion is highest in the Tarabganj tahsil and lowest in Gonda. In the Digsir and Nawabganj parganas it is over 10 per cent., while in pargana Gonda it is less than one-half of that amount. In addition to their use as reservoirs for irrigation, the jhils are of considerable value as fisheries and also for the *singhara* or waternut, which is extensively grown in them by Kahars and others, and the wild rice, which is frequently found in abundance and forms a supplement to the food supply of the poorest classes.

Forests.

A large proportion of the district is still covered with forests, the greatest areas being in the Tulsipur pargana, along the Kuwana and Bisuhi rivers, and in the south of Mankapur and north of Nawabganj. The whole of this is not, however, reserved, as large areas of forest land are in the possession of taluqdars and others. The reserved forests are two in number, the first comprising a long and narrow strip in the extreme north of the district at the foot of the hills, and the second the small detached block known as the Tikri forest to the south of Mankapur.

Tulsipur forest.

The history of these forests is practically the same as that of the Government reserves in Bahraich and Kheri. After the confiscation of the Tulsipur estate in 1859 the village lands were

handed over to the Maharaja of Balrampur, while the waste and forest areas remained the property of Government. During the early days of British administration there were no rules for the protection of these forests, and large quantities of the best timber were removed unchecked. It was not till September 1866 that rules were issued for the better management and preservation of the Oudh forests; a conservator, assistant conservators, and subordinate officers were appointed, certain species of trees were reserved, boundaries demarcated, and rights defined.* The reserved species might only be cut by the purchasers after selection by the forest officer in charge. No wood was to be cut without permission, and villagers living within three miles of the boundary were given unreserved wood free. The forests remained burdened, however, with unlimited concessions in the matter of grazing, grass, and the like. At a later date it was found necessary to reduce these rights to reasonable proportions. In 1879 the Tulsipur forests were reserved and the concessions confined to 132 villages in the vicinity.† The privileged villages thus received thatching grass, unreserved wood, and poles for building purposes free of cost, while the inhabitants of other villages could only obtain them on payment. Grazing dues were also levied, the privileged villages paying half the amount required from others. In 1895 the forests were declared to be free from all rights after due enquiry, but this declaration did not affect the existing concessions. In 1899 the grazing lease formerly granted to the Balrampur estate came to an end; under this agreement the estate had obtained the right of grazing 45,000 cattle and 5,000 buffaloes at privileged rates, an arrangement which imposed a very heavy tax on the forests and constituted a serious handicap on their development. After the termination of the lease new rules for concessions to the neighbouring villages were laid down, and their number reduced to 87.‡ The maximum number of cattle permitted was fixed at 30,000, this amount to be distributed among the villages by the deputy commissioner; dry fuel and thatching grass were

* Notification no. 27F. of 24th September 1866.

† G. O. no. 441 of 7th May 1879.

‡ G. O. no. $\frac{306}{XIV-959A}$, dated 20th April 1899.

given free up to the limit of actual requirements; and timber was granted at one-third of the ordinary rates. Special concessions were made in favour of the Tharu cultivators in the privileged villages.

Boundaries. The Tulsipur forest extends from the Gandhela *nala* on the west to the Arrah on the east. To the north they are bounded by the Nepal frontier and on the south by the villages and forest lands of the Balrampur estate, the boundary being demarcated in places by a line with serially numbered stone pillars and in a few places by monoliths along the watercourses. They thus form a compact area, about 35 miles in length, with an average breadth of some four miles, covering 91,454 acres or 142·9 square miles. The whole tract is traversed from north to south at frequent intervals by watercourses, with broad stony or sandy beds, for the most part dry during the hot weather. Between these watercourses along the greater part of the southern boundary are level or generally undulating stretches of well drained land, in most places favourable to a good growth of forest. Here and there these fertile tracts extend as far as the foot of the hills, but as a rule the ground to the north is higher, very much broken, and intersected by innumerable torrent beds. The high ground is occasionally level, but is always dry, unfertile, and sparsely covered with stunted trees of no commercial value. The uneven and variable character of the ground is entirely due to the action of water, which during the monsoon is extremely violent, since the tract lies at the foot of a range of steep and bare hills. The soil on the level areas is a sandy loam about two feet deep, usually covered by a layer or vegetable mould of varying thickness. On the high ground *kankar* is found in a few places, and elsewhere the sub-soil consists of layers of clay or pure sand containing waterworn limestone boulders. The climate is generally cooler than in the rest of the district, but is very malarious, especially in the east, during the last three months of the year.

Produce. The character of the forests differs greatly in different parts, owing to the variations in the general configuration of the ground. In the north the trees are stunted and badly shaped and their distribution is irregular. In the centre the trees are usually tall, straight, and sound, and here the forest is more or less continuous.

In the south the forest is of an inferior description, consisting mainly of stunted trees and shrubs of miscellaneous species, while owing to the exercise of grazing rights reproduction is difficult. The principal species of any commercial value found in the Tulsipur forest are the *sál* (Shorea robusta), *asaina* (Terminalia tomentosa), *dhau* (Anogeissus latifolia), and *haldu* (Adina cordifolia). The *sál* predominates in the east, and good *sál* forests are to be found in the level parts of the central zone and along the watercourses, but everywhere they contain a large admixture of *asaina*. In the north the growth is invariably stunted, and in all parts large trees are rare by reason of past neglect, and when found are often unsound, owing to the former practice of tapping for resin. Altogether *sál* covers somewhat under 16,000 acres. The *asaina* is most plentiful in the east, but is everywhere found mixed with *sál*, *dhau*, or other species. It thrives in a moist clay soil, and consequently the best growth is obtained on low ground and on the banks of streams. It covers altogether some 3,000 acres. The *dhau* is the predominant species over nearly half the total area, and by itself accounts for more than 44,000 acres. It is chiefly found mixed with *asaina* and other trees, in a varying proportion, according to the nature of the soil, and is less abundant in the *sál* forests. The *haldu* also covers a considerable area and is the only remaining species which produces large timber of any value. Among the less numerous trees may be mentioned the *shisham* (Dalbergia sissoo) and the *khair* (Acacia catechu), which are found on the low ground along the broader watercourses. The former often attains a good size, but the *khair* is generally small and ill-grown. Many other trees are found in the south of the forest, generally the same as those which abound throughout the district, such are the *mahua, semal, jamun, aonla,* and ebony. The forests are generally open and contain but little undergrowth, except in the better *sál* and *asaina* tracts; in the *dhau* forests the undergrowth is chiefly grass, while elsewhere shrubs and small trees of various species are to be found in large numbers.

Markets.

The forest produce is exported either by the district roads or by the Bengal and North-Western Railway. The latter was opened in 1897 as far as Tulsipur, but has hitherto made no

great difference to the export trade, owing partly to the small amount of produce available for distant markets and partly to the scarcity of wagons. The present extension of the line to Uska Bazar and the branch to Jharwa in the heart of the forest will probably result in a great development of trade. The chief roads employed are those leading south to Balrampur from Chaudhridih and Tulsipur, and to Utraula from Tulsipur and Chandanpur. Besides timber the chief marketable products are fuel, thatching grass, and miscellaneous articles such as *bankas* grass, hides, *mahua*, and lime. The supply of large timber is limited; the demand is almost confined to *sál* for building and *dhau* for cart axles. The local demand for timber of similar kinds, fuel, and minor produce is very extensive. The *bankas* grass finds a local market for the manufacture of ropes and mats, and is also exported to the paper mills. It is, however, of inferior quality to that grown in the neighbouring hills of Nepal owing to the protective measures that are necessary in Government forests.

Management.

The forest is under the control of the deputy conservator, subordinate to whom are the ranger, two foresters, and eighteen forest guards. The permanent staff is strengthened by a temporary staff of export *muharrirs* during the working season and of fire-watchers from February till June. The whole area is divided into three working circles, managed according to the working plan of 1897, which has been put in force for a period of twenty years. The first circle is known as the Bhambhar and comprises the eastern portion. It is made up of six compartments extending as far west as the Musi *nadi*. The second or Tulsipur circle contains eight compartments, and occupies the central portion from the Musi *nadi* to the Kakrala *nala* on the west. The third circle is that known as Barhawa, and consists of seven compartments bounded on the west by the Bahraich district. In addition to these, the open forests to the south are demarcated as two circles divided by a narrow and artificial line. The working plan prescribes selection fellings for the whole of the closed forest, to be followed in each coupe by cleanings which will take place twice during the rotation and will include the felling of inferior trees of all sizes. In the outer grazing circle the

fellings are designed solely with the object of improving the grazing so as eventually to relieve the remainder of the open forest from the burden of supporting cattle. In the inner grazing circle felling is altogether prohibited in order to allow the ground to become stocked with trees as far as possible. The total area now open to grazing is 30,000 acres in the outer, and 15,785 acres in the inner, grazing circle. Fire conservancy was first attempted in 1881 and has been fairly successful. There are now 200 miles of firelines in the forest, the portion best protected being the Bhambhar circle; in addition to this the numerous broad watercourses form natural firelines of considerable value. Most of the lines run from north to south, but a transverse line 50 feet wide has been cut for the whole length of the forest midway between the northern and southern boundaries. A number of roads have been constructed by the Forest department, amounting in all to some 68 miles, in addition to 200 miles of inspection paths and 66 miles of roads outside the forest, the maintenance of which is shared with the Balrampur estate. There are eight rest-houses in the forest, at Chandanpur, Birpur, and Hasnapur in the east, at Sungarha, Janakpur, and Nandmahra in the centre, and at Barhawa and Pipra in the west. Besides these there are a number of small *chaukis* for the subordinate officers.

Tikri forest.

The Tikri or Nawabganj forest consists of a collection of resumed jungle grants, which have been constituted as reserved forests at various intervals since 1879. The total area is 12,216 acres, and comprises a compact block between the Chamnai and Manwar rivers and two small detached blocks known as Andhawa and Bhainsawa to the north. The forest stands on almost level ground, sloping slightly towards the south and east and drained by the two rivers and other shallow watercourses, such as the Sujoi *nala*. The soil is generally a sandy loam about two feet deep, while in the depressions and swamps it inclines to clay. The subsoil is either *kankar* or layers of clay or pure sand, while the water level is seldom more than ten feet below the surface and in many places less than six. About three-fourths of the area is covered with *sál* trees of an inferior quality, with a small admixture of *asaina, dhau, mahua,* and other species. The forest is

fairly well stocked except in parts of the Manwar and Jankinagar blocks, in which the area under tree forest is irregular and interrupted by blanks. The only large trees found are the *mahua* and a few banyans and *pipals* scattered over the whole tract. Along the rivers are narrow stretches of grass land, but in one or two places there are extensive areas under grass. The chief products of the forest are *mahua* timber, *sál* poles, fuel, thatching, and *baib* grass and *mahua* flowers. The railway, which traverses the forest, takes a considerable amount of fuel, while the grass and other minor produce are sold locally. Thatching grass is usually leased out in small areas or sold by permits; the *baib* is collected departmentally and supplied to the paper mills; and *mahua* flowers are either leased out or collected by the forest staff.

History. At annexation the forest was placed in the charge of the district officer, but after the Mutiny the forest tract was granted in fee-simple or otherwise to private individuals. As the grantees failed to comply with the waste land rules, the grants were resumed by Government between 1875 and 1880. The area known as Jotpur was received from the taluqdar of Singha Chanda in 1890, in exchange for an equal area in the district forest of Pirthipalganj. All the blocks which form the Nawabganj forest were reserved under various notifications between February 1879 and February 1891. An area of 1,065 acres was given up in August 1890 and handed over to the deputy commissioner for the settlement of the criminal tribes of Barwars; and in the following February an equal area, comprising the Jotpur and Debinagar blocks, was reserved in its place, the latter being formerly a district forest.

Management. The tract is now managed by a ranger under the deputy conservator on the lines of a working plan prepared in 1894. The whole is divided into seven beats and twenty-one compartments, and the subordinate establishment consists of one forester, a clerk, and nine forest guards, while additional men are employed during the felling season and for fire protection. The whole area is worked as a coppice with standards, on a rotation of twenty years. The inferior quality of the *sál* is chiefly due to the fact that before reservation the grantees and other proprietors devoted all their attention to removing forest produce for sale, so that in 1879

there was practically no stock left on the ground; and the chief aim was to protect the area while securing as large a revenue as possible by the sale of grass, dry fuel, and minor produce. Fire protection was attempted from the first, but for many years the results attained were poor. All boundary lines touching private forests have been cut fifty feet wide, while in the interior similar lines have been recently cleared. There are no rights in the forest, but grazing is allowed in Jankinagar for the neighbouring villagers. The head quarters of the ranger is at Mankapur, and there is an inspection house at Ramgarh. The forest is traversed by the roads from Nawabganj to Utraula and Chandradip ghat, while there are in addition about 29 miles of departmental roads.

Forest revenue.

As a commercial undertaking the Gonda forests have not been a success, owing partly to the inferior nature of the produce and partly to the necessity of allowing the crop time for development. In many years the forests have failed to pay their way, while under the most favourable circumstances the profits are but small. The Tikri forest actually shows the best financial results. From 1879 to 1886 the surplus revenue averaged Rs. 997 annually, while from 1887 to 1892 it was no less than Rs. 6,206. Since the latter year there has been some improvement, for from 1893 to 1905 the average surplus was Rs. 6,740, the highest profit being Rs. 17,260 in 1902. The working expenses of this forest are low, amounting on an average to Rs. 4,585 annually. In Tulsipur, on the other hand, a large staff has to be maintained, and the profits consequently disappear rapidly. From 1892 to 1899 these forests yielded only Rs. 4,549 annually, while in the succeeding two years there was a serious deficit. From 1902 onwards there has been a slight improvement, and in 1903 the surplus was Rs. 11,460, the average from 1899 to 1905 being no more than Rs. 2,938. In this case the working expenses amounted to Rs. 22,050 annually.

Private forests.

The various private forests of the district are of considerable economic value, although they seldom produce timber of the first quality. They comprise the forest areas in Tulsipur outside the reserved boundary, belonging to the Maharaja of Balrampur; the narrow strips of *sál* forest along the Kuwana, Bisuhi, and other rivers, and the scattered patches of *dhák* and other jungle

in different parts of the district. The area of such forests has greatly declined since annexation, owing to the rapid extension of cultivation. During the first twenty years of British rule large stretches of wooded land were cleared for the plough, and the process has been continued till the present time. The *sál* forests along the rivers of the *uparhar* were for the most part demarcated as jungle grants under the waste land rules and distributed among various grantees. At first the principle adopted was to take fees at the rate of Rs. 10 per hundred acres, and give a lease, remitting land revenue for twenty years, and stipulating that a certain proportion of land should be brought under cultivation by certain fixed periods, while in every case one-half was to be cleared before the twenty years expired. In case the grantee did not clear the stipulated area, he was to receive the land he had actually brought under the plough, together with an equal amount of waste, and the remainder was to be resumed. Subsequently it was considered that money might be more rapidly and profitably realized by absolute sales of the fee-simple; and such plots as had not been dealt with under the old rules were put up for auction, the land revenue being remitted in perpetuity, while a full proprietary title was conveyed to the auction-purchaser. Under the former system an area of 43,275 acres, comprising 31 grants, was distributed, while 35,493 acres were sold by auction in 22 parcels for Rs. 4,99,422, giving an average price of Rs. 14-1-6 per acre. Some of the resumed grants were incorporated into the Nawabganj reserved forest. These private jungles, so far as they have not been cleared, are still of importance as providing fuel and fodder reserve, and their owners in some cases realize considerable sums in the shape of grazing dues; but the best timber they produce is *sál* in the shape of small beams, sleepers, and poles, which are disposed of in the local markets or purchased by the railway company.

Groves.

In consequence of the large forest area artificial groves are comparatively scarce, as is also the case in the districts of Kheri and Bahraich. Their absence is specially remarkable in the northern parganas, but they rapidly increase in size and number towards the south as the distance from the forest becomes

greater. At the first regular settlement groves covered 44,134 acres or $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. of the total area. The proportion ranged from ·6 per cent. in Tulsipur to 4·3 per cent. in Gonda and 5·7 per cent. in Paharapur. Since that time the grove area has slightly decreased, mainly owing to the spread of cultivation and the tillage of lands which were formerly occupied by old groves which have not been replaced. In 1904 the total grove area was 43,959 acres, the proportion as before being highest in the Gonda tahsil, where it amounts to 4·2 per cent. of the total area. These groves generally consist of mango trees, but there is in addition a large amount of land covered with *mahua* which is generally entered as culturable waste. These *mahua* groves, especially in the east of the district, are often of great value, and large sums are realized from the sale of their produce. The *jamun* trees, which abound along the Bisuhi and other rivers and frequently cover large continuous areas, are also of some importance, but they, too, are only included in the grove lands when they occur in regular plantations.

Waste land.

The total area of the waste and uncultivated land in 1904 amounted to 503,793 acres, or excluding the reserved forests 29·7 per cent. of the whole district. Of this, however, only a portion can be properly described as waste. The area under water, amounting to 105,371 acres, has already been mentioned; while in addition to this 58,047 acres occupied by sites, roads, and buildings should be also excluded. So, too, should the new fallow, 35,275 acres in all, as this represents for the most part land which is under cultivation, but which is allowed to rest under the usual system of rotation. Of the remainder the small area of 9,275 acres was classed as actually unculturable, and of this over one-third was to be found in pargana Guwarich, where there are large areas of barren sand left along its banks by the Ghagra. The rest is mainly of a similar nature, as in this district the *úsar* plains which characterize the south of Oudh are practically non-existent. The uncultivated waste which has never been brought under the plough is somewhat extensive, amounting to 152,777 acres, while 143,338 acres were classed as old fallow. The former consists for the most of unreclaimed jungle land and open grass wastes, which are common in the north and also along the Ghagra,

while much of the latter is land of a very inferior quality and would not repay permanent cultivation, or land which has been temporarily abandoned owing to local depression. The proportion of waste is naturally larger in the Utraula tahsil than elsewhere, and particularly in the parganas of Tulsipur, Mankapur, and Sadullahnagar. It is smallest in Gonda, the best developed tahsil of the district. Much of the culturable waste, too, consists of inferior land which has been purposely left untilled in order to provide fodder. This is especially the case along the Terhi, where there is a continuous stretch of lowlying land, which, though not in itself of a bad quality, is liable to flood and affords better pasture than is commonly found elsewhere in the hot summer months. At the first regular settlement Mr. Benett remarked that in no part of the district had the limit of cultivation been reached, and consequently it was only natural to find a large decrease in the unassessed area on the expiry of the settlement. It is probable that there is still room in Gonda for a considerable extension of the area cultivated, and the proportion of available land is certainly far higher than in the more developed districts of southern Oudh.

Minerals.

The mineral products of Gonda are very insignificant and are practically confined to *kankar* and brick-earth. The former is found in large quantities along the course of the Ghagra, while in the *uparhar* it is generally obtainable when required for road metal. The cost of excavation is, as a rule, the same as in the neighbouring districts, that is to say, about one rupee per cubic foot, but the price chiefly depends on the distance it has to be carried from the quarry. In the *tarai* to the north *kankar* is rarely to be found, and it is largely owing to this reason that none of the roads in that tract have been metalled. The construction of the various lines of railway increased the demand for *kankar* in the south, but in many parts of the *uparhar* it was found cheaper to use as ballast the bricks of the old sites of Bhar villages, which are so frequently to be seen in this district. Brick-earth is obtainable in most places, and native kilns are to be seen in the neighbourhood of most of the towns, while at Gonda and Balrampur good bricks of the European pattern are manufactured.

Fauna. Wild animals are found in greater numbers and variety than in the districts to the south of the Ghagra, and the species commonly met with in Gonda are generally the same as those occurring in Bahraich and Kheri. In the forests of the north tigers, leopards, bears, and wolves are to be found, but their numbers have greatly decreased since the advent of British rule and the subsequent contraction of the jungle area. The sambhar, spotted deer, hog-deer, and *nilgai* also occur in the forests, while the last are also unusually abundant in the southern jungles of Nawabganj and in the lowlying tracts along the Ghagra, where they do immense damage to the crops. The black buck is fairly common in the wide open grass wastes of Tulsipur and is occasionally to be seen further south. The wild pig abounds along the Ghagra and throughout the forest area, and with the *nilgai* and monkeys, which are to be seen in multitudes in parts of the district, render the cultivation in the neighbourhood of the forests at all times precarious. Save within the reserved forests, but little has been done to check the wholesale slaughter of game by native hunters, the Tharus of the north being notorious offenders in this respect. The other wild animals include the porcupine, jackal, fox, and hare, which are to be found in all parts. Many of the streams, and especially the Rapti and Kuwana, are full of both varieties of alligators and shoals of porpoises.

Birds. The birds of the district include all the species commonly found in the submontane tracts. Peacocks, jungle fowl, bustards, partridges, and quail are all to be found, and sometimes in great numbers. Large flocks of the small hill pigeon come down from the highlands of Nepal during the cold weather, and at the same season ortolan are very common in the plains at the edge of the jungle. Migratory waterfowl of all descriptions visit the district during the winter months and are to be seen in almost every jhil.

Fishes. The rivers and lakes of the district abound with fish of many varieties, and large numbers of persons resort to fishing either as a regular profession or as a subsidiary means of subsistence. The various species met with are practically the same as those found throughout Oudh. They are caught with the net,

rod, and line, various forms of wicker baskets and traps, and also with the *pachki* or five-pronged spear, in the use of which the fishermen are very expert. Fish are used as food by the majority of the population, and those caught find a ready sale in the local bazars. Large numbers of fishermen resort to the small streams which flow into the Rapti; these are well stocked with fish, and during the season the huts of the fishermen may be seen all along their banks. They hang their fish on lines to dry in the sun, and then carry it to the north to barter with the hillmen of Nepal. The Tharus are great fishermen, while in the south the castes chiefly engaged in fishing are Kahars, Pasis, Mallahs, and Kewats. At the last census there were 1,125 persons employed as fishermen, exclusive of dependents, the total being considerably larger than any other district of Oudh, though this is exclusive of the numbers of cultivators who take to fishing during the season.

Cattle. The cattle of this district are generally of a somewhat superior type to those seen south of the Ghagra, owing to the larger areas of available pasturage and grazing ground. There are, however, no local breeds of any importance, the best animals being brought to the district from Nanpara in Bahraich and sold at the various cattle markets, of which Katra Bazar is the chief. The principal local breeding grounds are in the north under the forest, where cattle are kept in large herds. In former days they did great damage to the young saplings and other forest produce, as grazing rights extended up to the very foot of the hills, but since the reservation of the Tulsipur forest the area opened to grazing has been greatly reduced and the number of cattle permitted to enter the reserves has been fixed at a maximum of 30,000. There are also good grazing grounds in the neighbourhood of the Tikri forest and in the various private jungles; a considerable area, too, is devoted to grazing along the Terhi, while the *manjha* lands of the Ghagra also provide pasture of a somewhat inferior quality. The so-called Rampur breed, which derives its name from the village on the Terhi in which Raja Krishn Datt Ram resided, is not properly indigenous, being the offspring of cattle imported by the raja from Rajputana. These animals are famous for their vice, ugliness, and great power

of endurance. The other local breeds are generally small, but are well suited to the work required of them. The price of a pair of plough oxen ranges from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50, while for draught a rather better quality is required. Almost all the jungles are infested with wild cattle, the descendants of animals which had broken loose, or in some cases of those left behind in abandoned villages; they do great damage to the crops, and, though occasionally captured, are of little use for domestic purposes.

Cattle census.

The total recorded number of cattle at the first regular settlement was 708,828, but as the number of ploughs was 154,912, it would appear that the former figure included cattle of all descriptions and not merely those available for agricultural purposes. Moreover, the returns were admitted to be inaccurate, and no great reliance can be placed on the figures. A regular cattle census was taken in August 1899, and it was then ascertained that the district contained 404,203 bulls and bullocks, 297,441 cows, 10,362 male buffaloes, and 92,722 cow buffaloes; in addition to these, young stock numbered 358,021. The figures for plough animals were not exceeded in any of the districts of Oudh, and the number of cows was only surpassed in Kheri. There were 169,221 ploughs, giving an average of 2·45 cattle and 6·91 cultivated acres per plough. The former average was fairly high, though it should be remembered that in the rice tracts four bullocks are commonly yoked to each plough, so that the available surplus is reduced to very small proportions. The plough duty was also high, and this was ascribed partly to the general superiority of the cattle and partly to the backward state of cultivation as compared with other districts of Oudh. A second census was taken in the early part of 1904, and it was then ascertained that the number of bulls and bullocks had risen to 444,720, of cows to 329,552, of male buffaloes to 10,587, and of cow buffaloes to 97,515; but, on the other hand, young stock showed a considerable decline, the total being 327,101. The general increase was balanced by a greater number of ploughs, the latter amounting to 188,984, so that the proportion of cattle to each plough remained practically unchanged. The large number of cows and cow buffaloes shows both that Gonda is a

breeding district and also that it has a large *ghi* industry, great quantities of the latter article being exported to the southern markets.

Cattle disease.

Like all the submontane tracts, the district is exposed from time to time to severe epidemics of cattle disease. Certain forms, such as rinderpest, foot-and-mouth disease, black-quarter, and hemorrhagic septicoemia, appear to be endemic in the district, while anthrax also appears from time to time. The returns are quite unreliable, as great numbers of deaths are not reported and the diagnosis is frequently faulty. An epidemic of unusual severity occurred in 1870, and it was then calculated that no less than 38 per cent. of the stock was lost in pargana Mahadewa, while in the Gonda tahsil the decrease was about 30 per cent. The murrain spread over the whole district and had a pernicious effect on cultivation, large areas of cultivated land being abandoned. Rinderpest is always very common in Tulsipur, especially after the rains in October and November. Little has been done to check the spread of disease, though of late years inoculation has been attempted and the services of a veterinary assistant have been placed at the disposal of the district board.

Other animals.

The other domestic animals are of little importance. Horse-breeding has never been scientifically attempted to any extent, although a stallion is maintained by the district board. The last census showed a total of 14,636 horses and ponies in the district, but most of these are the ordinary wretched animals of the country, under-fed and over-worked, employed for the transport of grain, which is packed in sacks and taken on their backs to the bazars. Carts are also largely used for the same purpose, and in 1904 the number was 18,788, a higher figure than in any other district of Oudh except Kheri. Mention should, however, be made of the admirable *tanghan* ponies from the hills of Nepal, brought in large numbers to the Debi Patan fair: there is a large demand for these animals, and they command good prices. It was also observed at the census that donkeys are very numerous, but these animals are generally of a very poor description, and there is little or no mule-breeding. Sheep and goats abound in all parts, but both are of very small breeds.

They are kept for food, for penning on the land, and also for their wool and hair, which is either manufactured into felt or blankets on the spot or else exported.

The climate of Gonda generally resembles that of the adjoining districts of Bahraich and Basti on the west and east respectively. No records of temperature are maintained, but generally speaking the district may be said to compare favourably in this respect with the southern districts of Oudh, and during the hot weather the thermometer seldom registers a very high figure. Observations of over 105° in the shade have occasionally been recorded, but the average maximum for May and June is not much above 90.° The cold weather lasts longer than in the districts to the south, but at the same time frosts are uncommon and are rarely severe, even in the coldest months of December and January. At almost all seasons of the year the prevailing winds blow from the east. Although considered healthy by Europeans, the district does not enjoy a good reputation among natives, and especially those from other parts of the United Provinces. This is chiefly due to the prevalence of malarial fever, owing mainly to the large forest area and the general height of the water level. Different parts of the district exhibit very different degrees of unhealthiness, the worst being undoubtedly the *tarai* pargana of Tulsipur, which, as is the case everywhere in the immediate vicinity of the hills, is deadly to strangers and harmful to all but the comparatively fever-proof Tharus. Climate.

The district as a whole receives a much more abundant rainfall than the parts of Oudh lying to the south of the Ghagra, the average closely approximating to that of Bahraich. Within the limits of the district the distribution varies considerably, the northern parganas receiving much more rain than those in the south; this is doubtless due to the proximity of the hills and the abundance of forests. Rain-gauges have been maintained at each of the tahsil headquarters since 1870, though that at Gonda was started at an earlier date. The average fall for the whole district between 1870 and 1904 was 46·06 inches annually. The highest average was that of Utraula, amounting to 51·55, and the lowest that of Tarabganj, where it was only 41·1 inches; at Rainfall.

Gonda itself, which lies between the two, the average was 44·45 inches. There are no records to show the rainfall in Tulsipur, where it doubtless is very much heavier than at any of the tahsils. Several years present remarkable variations from the normal. In 1871, a year of general floods, the district average was 71·93 inches, and over 81 inches fell at Gonda. Another wet year was 1879, with 68·73 inches for the district and 81·2 inches at Utraula. The heaviest fall on record occurred in 1894, when the district received 73·33 inches, and on this occasion the fall was heaviest at Gonda, where it amounted to 84·66 inches, while at Utraula it was under 64 inches. In 1901 the district average was 36·17 inches, but mention may be made of the record fall of 16·75 inches in 24 hours at Tarabganj on the 25th of September. The lowest fall recorded was that of 1873, when the total for the district was 21·73 inches and only 16·7 inches fell at Tarabganj. This resulted in considerable scarcity, and, though the rainfall was deficient throughout Oudh, Gonda was the only district in the province in which relief works were found necessary. In 1876 and 1877 the average was slightly over 29 inches and the district did not suffer acutely. Other dry years were 1880 and 1881, in which the fall was very deficient in the Tarabganj tahsil. From that time onwards it was either in excess of or closely approaching to the normal until 1896, when famine again occurred. The average for the district was 27·67 inches, the Tarabganj tahsil again faring the worst, as it only received 24·92 inches. There was also a considerable scarcity in 1865, following on a deficient rainfall of the previous year, and again in 1869; on the latter occasion the fall, though not remarkably small, was badly distributed, and it was followed by an entire absence of the winter rains, which almost invariably occur in this district.

Health. Some idea of the general health of the district can be obtained from an examination of the vital statistics. In the appendix will be found tables showing the number of recorded births and deaths since 1891 and the resultant rate, and also the number of deaths in each year ascribed to the principal causes of death.* The registration of births and deaths was attempted at an

* Appendix, tables III and IV.

early date, but the system at the beginning was very imperfect, and it was not till 1871 that the present arrangements were introduced. Even after that date the figures for several years were obviously incorrect, as the number of deaths reported must have been far less than the actual figure. From 1872 to 1881 the average annual mortality was 22,264, and this, according to the returns of the 1869 census, gave an average annual death-rate of only 19 per mille. For the following decade the average was 39,064, giving a rate of 30·7 per mille, which doubtless represents a far closer approximation to the reality. From 1892 to 1901 the number of recorded deaths was much higher, owing partly to more accurate registration and partly to successive epidemics of fever and cholera. The annual average for the period was 49,272 deaths or 33·7 per mille. In 1892 and 1894, both very wet years, in which there were severe outbreaks of cholera, the number of deaths was well over 60,000, and again in 1897 the death-rate was very high. The average recorded birth-rate for the same period was 34·89 per mille. This small excess of births over deaths was more than compensated by the large infant mortality, the result being shown in the great decrease of the population at the following census of 1891. Further, in only five out of the ten years did the number of births exceed that of deaths, a phenomenon which somewhat strikingly illustrates the general unhealthiness both of the district and of the decade. The years following the last census have been much more favourable, and, while the death-rate has greatly fallen, the proportion of births has shown a marked increase. The former for the first three years averaged only 28·45 per mille, from which it appears that in favourable seasons the district can well bear comparison with the adjoining tracts.

Turning to the chief causes of death, it will be observed that, Fever. as usual, fever heads the list. The term is applied vaguely, and generally includes all diseases in which fever is a symptom, for want of a more scientific diagnosis. A large proportion of the deaths so registered, however, may undoubtedly be ascribed to malarial fever. From 1872 to 1881 nearly 73 per cent. of the recorded deaths were assigned to this cause, and in the following ten years the proportion was 70 per cent. The figures remained

fairly constant in each year, but between 1892 and 1901 there were several violent epidemics of fever, notably in the wet season of 1894 and again in 1897, when the vitality of the people was lowered through famine. During this period over 72 per cent. of the deaths were ascribed to fever, the figure closely approximating to the general average for the past thirty years.

Cholera. Cholera appears regularly in the district every year, and has been responsible for a varying number of deaths on every occasion since 1875, the only year in which the returns under this head were blank. The disease appears to be endemic, but from time to time violent epidemics have occurred, carrying off thousands of persons. These outbreaks have frequently been ascribed to the great gatherings at the Debi Patan fair, but their occurrence has become more rare since active measures have been taken to improve the sanitary arrangements at these assemblages. The visitors at the fair are for the most part hill-men from Nepal; they are by nature dirty in their habits, and the mass of human beings and horses collected together proved, until stringent measures were taken to ensure cleanliness, a fruitful source of disease. Between 1872 and 1881 cholera accounted for 11·5 per cent. of the total recorded mortality: there were bad outbreaks in 1873, 1876, and the two following years, and again in 1881, when over 6,000 deaths were registered. During the ensuing decade there were only two bad epidemics in 1886 and 1888, the latter being responsible for over 10,000 deaths. During the whole period, however, the average mortality from cholera was only 7·2 per cent. of the whole. The improvement was not maintained in subsequent years. From 1891 to 1896 inclusive the annual mortality from this cause was over 3,000, while in 1893 it amounted to more than 16,000, and again in 1895 to more than 14,000. There was but little cholera in 1888 and the next year was comparatively free, but another serious epidemic occurred in 1900 and the average for the ten years worked out at over 10 per cent., an exceptionally high figure as compared with other districts of Oudh. It may be noted that in this respect Gonda closely resembles Kheri and, indeed, all the other submontane districts in

which the water is near the surface and the depth of the wells comparatively small, rendering contamination difficult to avoid.

Small-pox is still a common disease in this district, although its ravages have been greatly reduced by the spread of vaccination. In early years epidemics of great intensity were a frequent occurrence, and this was especially the case in 1876 and 1880; the average number of deaths for the ten years ending 1881 was over 3,000 annually, or more than 13 per cent. of the whole recorded mortality. From 1882 to 1891 the proportion was lower, being only 9·6 per cent., but would, indeed, have been far less but for the terrible epidemic in 1885, the worst on record in this district, when 24,600 persons were said to have died from this disease. Since that time there have been no unusually bad outbreaks except in 1897, when the death-roll reached the high figure of 5,490. This was more than half the total number of cases between 1892 and 1901, the average for the decade being only 1,077 annually, or little more than 2 per cent. of the recorded mortality. That this remarkable decrease in the number of deaths from small-pox may be ascribed mainly to the spread of vaccination is evident from the returns. These show that the epidemic of 1885 tended largely to enhance the popularity of preventive measures, which up to that time had been generally recorded with disfavour. For the ten years ending 1904 the average number of successful primary vaccinations was 34,800 annually, showing an enormous increase over the figures of the preceding ten years. In 1904 it was estimated that over 17 per cent. of the population were protected by vaccination, but this figure shows room for great improvement, as Gonda is in this respect still behind all the districts of Oudh except Bara Banki, and worse results were only obtained in Azamgarh and Farrukhabad of all the districts of the United Provinces. The reason lies to some extent in the unusual proportion of Brahmans among the inhabitants of this district, as the higher castes are everywhere more averse to vaccination than the lower ranks of Hindu society. Small-pox.

The other diseases call for no special mention. With the exception of a single case in May 1898, plague did not make its appearance in the district till February 1903, when a few imported cases occurred near Lakarmandi. The disease soon Other diseases.

died out, but towards the end of March Gonda became infected and then Nawabganj. In April 74 deaths were reported from the district, but the total fell to 16 in May, while at the end of the month the district was free. A more serious outbreak occurred in the following October, both at Gonda and in various parts of the district, especially Colonelganj. As a preventive measure disinfection was extensively carried out and the people were induced to take up a temporary abode in groves and other places. During the last three months of the year 589 deaths were recorded, but this number was exceeded in January 1904, when plague spread north to Utraula and elsewhere, resulting in an extensive migration of the inhabitants. As before, the disease remained in the district till the hot weather, but its spread was largely checked by general disinfection and segregation. Dysentery and bowel complaints are fairly common, being frequently the results of malarial fever. Goitre is unusually prevalent in this district, and particularly in the southern parganas: it is generally attributed by the people to the water, and being most commonly found in the immediate neighbourhood of the great rivers, lends support to the well-known theory that the disease is caused by drinking the water of snow-fed streams.

Infirmities.

Statistics of infirmities were first compiled at the census of 1881, when the numbers of lepers, deaf-mutes, lunatics, and blind persons were recorded. At the last enumeration of 1901 the total number coming under this head was 2,127, a lower figure than in any other part of Oudh except Kheri. Of the whole number, 979 were blind, an abnormally low figure, 699 were deaf and dumb, 300 were afflicted with leprosy, and 149 were insane. The number of deaf-mutes is unusually large, although it was exceeded in Bahraich, Almora, and Gorakhpur. The infirmity is undoubtedly connected with goitre, and, like that disease, is most common in the hills and then follows the course of some of the rivers issuing from them, but not for any considerable distance. Both goitre and deaf-mutism are chiefly found in the Tarabganj tahsil, and the proportions are almost identical. It would appear that in many cases insanity is also connected with goitre, and this theory is again supported by the territorial distribution.

CHAPTER II.

Agriculture and Commerce.

Though in its natural conditions the district is not unfortunate, agriculture is still in a backward state. Hardly any of the land is of a really bad description, and in the matter of irrigation the tract possesses unusual natural advantages; but on the other hand the soil is light and often weak, large areas are subject to fluvial action and floods, and cultivation in the vicinity of the forests suffers severely from the depredations of wild animals. These drawbacks might be to a large extent counteracted if other conditions were more favourable, but here, again, the district is seriously handicapped. Not only are many of the larger landowners in very straitened circumstances owing to the heavy encumbrances on their estates, but the tenants are as a body of a very inferior description by reason of the great numerical preponderance of the higher castes. Brahmans and Rajputs, who are notoriously poor husbandmen, have far more land than the better agriculturists, and their holdings are usually large and carelessly tilled, most of the work being done by hired labour. Consequently the close and intense cultivation which characterizes the districts of central and southern Oudh is comparatively rare in Gonda, owing either to the general mediocrity of the soil or to the prevailing caste of the tenants. Moreover, the district is markedly affected by its most striking peculiarity—the dispersion of the population among numerous hamlets and the absence of compact and densely populated village sites,—resulting in an unusually low proportion of the rich and highly manured land in the vicinity of the homesteads, which forms so important a factor in the fertility of other parts of Oudh. The district has, however, made considerable progress of late years. Cultivation has extended and become more stable; the outlying jungles have in a large measure disappeared; irrigation has increased rapidly, and the character of the crops has improved, while the general development has been materially assisted by the construction of

Cultivation.

the railway and its branches, especially in the eastern parganas, which in early years were very backward.

Cultivated area.

The proportion of the land cultivated to the total area of the district is necessarily somewhat low, owing to the wide extent of forest in the north and elsewhere. There are no records extant to show the amount of cultivation at annexation, although figures were collected in each pargana at the time of the summary assessment. It is known, however, that the increase was very rapid during the first few years of British rule, especially in Burhapara and other parganas which had suffered severely at the hands of the revenue authorities. The earliest statistics are those of the first regular settlement. It was then ascertained that 1,049,867 acres or 61 per cent. of the whole area, excluding the forests, was cultivated. The proportion varied greatly in different parts: it was highest in Balrampur pargana with 73 per cent., followed by the Gonda tahsil with 64 per cent., and lowest in Nawabganj, Burhapara, and Mankapur, the last having but 43 per cent. of cultivation. At the revision of 1875 a slight increase was recorded, the total being 1,070,163 acres or 61·5 per cent. Regular annual returns were not prepared till 1885, and it was then found that 1,167,824 acres were under the plough. There was an unaccountable drop in the following year, but the average from 1885 to 1894 was no less than 1,139,548 acres, the highest figure being reached in the last year, when it amounted to 1,188,523 acres, or over 70 per cent., a proportion which has never been equalled since. From that time a decline set in by reason of a succession of bad seasons, floods, and saturation being followed by drought, till in 1897 cultivation had fallen to 1,047,574 acres, or less than the total at the settlement. At the last revision a slight advance was already visible, the total being 1,078,541 acres, but there was still a marked decrease in the Tarabganj tahsil as compared with the earliest records, and in Gonda cultivation was almost stationary, Utraula alone showing any distinct improvement. During subsequent years the progress has been rapid, and it would seem that the old level of 1893 will soon be regained, if not passed. During the decade ending in 1904 the average cultivation was 1,104,950 acres, while in the last year it was 1,148,461 acres or over 67 per cent. of the whole district,

excluding the reserved forests. As before, the proportion was highest in Utraula and lowest in Tarabganj, the latter tahsil having not yet recovered from its depression and the consequent loss of population.

Extension of cultivation.

There is undoubtedly room for some extension of cultivation in the future, both in the resumption of fallow and in breaking up new waste. The latter process is slow and laborious, and is constantly hampered by the ravages of wild animals, as most of the available land is in the neighbourhood of jungle. More will probably be effected by the development of those tracts in which cultivation is more recent and consequently unstable. As the pressure on the land increases, so will the tillage necessarily improve. The spread of cultivation since the first regular settlement has mainly taken place in the Utraula tahsil, where the population was scanty, communications hardly existed, and large belts of jungle awaited reclamation. In the other tahsils, where the cultivation was old and well established, the area still unreclaimed is mainly of a poor character, and in most parts an extension of tillage can only be secured by a resort to inferior soils.

Double-cropping.

One of the chief features in the agriculture of this district is the prevalence of the practice of double-cropping, which illustrates not only the capacity of the land but also the ease with which the soil is tilled. It is common throughout the north of Oudh, especially in the rice tracts, where gram is sown broadcast in the cold weather; but in no other district is it carried to such an extent as in Gonda. At the first regular settlement the *dofasli* area was 317,600 acres or nearly 30 per cent. of the cultivation, but probably even this figure is below the mark. The practice has grown rapidly of late years, and from 1894 to 1903 the average was 459,455 acres or over 41 per cent. of the area cultivated, while in 1904 it had risen to the surprising figure of 564,799 acres, more than 49 per cent. of the land cultivated being sown twice in the year. This increase largely compensates for the apparent decline in the total area tilled, for the crop-producing area in 1904 was thus far in excess of that recorded in any other season, not excepting 1893. The practice, too, is most common in the Tarabganj tahsil, where the proportion was over 60 per cent.,

so that it would appear that in this sub-division attention is paid rather to obtaining the maximum yield from the better soils than to extending the cultivation by breaking up new land. In Gonda the double-cropped area was 52 per cent. and in Utraula 42 per cent., the least amounts being in the Utraula and Mankapur parganas, in the former of which the soils are often suitable for one particular crop, either in the winter or autumn harvest, while in the latter the land is weaker than in any other portion of the district.

Harvests. There are the usual harvests called by the usual names, save that the late kharif crops are often classed by themselves as belonging to the *henwat* or *aghani* harvest, the latter name being derived from the month in which the late rice is reaped. The relative areas occupied by the two harvests differ greatly in different parts of the district, owing to the nature of the soil. In the *tarai* the later kharif crops predominate, as rice is the chief staple; further south, in the *uparhar*, wheat is the most important; and in the *tarhar* reliance is to a large extent placed on the outturn of the early kharif, owing to the large area under maize. The recent history of the district, however, illustrates the changes that have taken place in this direction. At the first regular settlement the rabi area was slightly under 53 per cent. of the gross area cropped, and the kharif a little more than 47 per cent., but the proportion in the case of the former ranged from 43 per cent. in Tulsipur to 60 per cent. in Paharapur, and of the latter from 43 per cent. in Guwarich to 57 per cent. in Tulsipur.* At the last settlement it was observed that the kharif exceeded the rabi in all tahsils of the district—a change that is doubtless due to enhanced pressure on the soil, and also to a great development of rice and sugarcane cultivation. In 1899 the rabi averaged only 45 per cent. of the total cropped area, and the kharif had risen to no less than 55 per cent. Five years later, in 1904, the difference was less marked, the proportions being 49·5 and 50·5 per cent., respectively. This was not due to any falling off on the part of the kharif, but rather to a very rapid expansion of the rabi area, indicating an increase in the practice of double-cropping, gram and

* Settlement report, page 107.

other crops being more extensively grown on the rice fields during the winter. In the Gonda tahsil the rabi harvest exceeded the kharif to a considerable extent, but elsewhere the latter had a marked advantage. The *zaid* or intermediate harvest is of little importance in this district. It seldom covers more than 5,000 acres and is frequently very much less. In 1904 the total was only 2,679 acres, and of this 2,081 acres lay in the Tarabganj tahsil, and 479 in Utraula, mainly in the Balrampur pargana. Almost the whole area is taken up by melons, which are somewhat extensively grown during the hot weather in the sandy soil along the Ghagra, Rapti, and other rivers: for the rest, there is a little *chena*, an early millet, and a small amount of vegetables and spices.

Kharif crops. Rice.

By far the most important of the kharif staples is rice, which, according to the returns available from 1898 to 1904, covers on an average 584,526 acres or 56·19 per cent. of the total kharif harvest. The proportion is naturally highest in the Utraula tahsil, where it amounts to no less than 65·03 per cent. In the parganas of tahsil Gonda it was 52·4, and in Tarabganj only 37·8 per cent. In the *tarai* tract and in the northern portion of the *uparhar* the rice chiefly grown is that known as *jarhan* or transplanted rice; this is also raised elsewhere in the neighbourhood of jhils and depressions where water is available. The *jarhan* variety is much more valuable than the dry or early rice, which preponderates in the upland tract and in the Tarabganj tahsil. A noteworthy feature of the latter sub-division is the large proportion of early kharif crops, which renders the tract practically secure in the event of an early cessation of the rains. Early rice is sown in July and cut in September, while *jarhan* follows two months later, the transplanting taking place in August. The great increase in the rice area is very remarkable, for at the first regular settlement the area covered by this crop was no more than 408,171 acres.

Maize.

Next in order comes maize, which occupies on an average 209,055 acres or 24·24 per cent. of the kharif area. This crop has long been popular in the district, as also in the adjoining tracts of Basti and Gorakhpur, but it has spread enormously during the past forty years, having more than doubled in

amount since the first regular settlement. The light and porous soil of the *tarhar* is better suited for maize than rice, and consequently we find the largest proportion in the Tarabganj tahsil, where maize covers no less than 44·3 per cent. of the kharif area; while in Gonda the figure is also high, amounting to 31·6 per cent., and in Utraula 13·2 per cent., the bulk of it in the latter case being found in the Balrampur pargana. Enormous quantities of maize are produced in Guwarich, and there, as elsewhere in the lowlying tract, it is generally followed in the rabi by a crop of peas or barley.

Kodon. Among the inferior food grains mention may be made of *kodon*, a small millet which grows in light, unirrigated soil and is extensively consumed by the poorer classes. It covers when sown alone on an average 43,191 acres or 5·09 per cent. of the area sown in the kharif. The largest amount is to be found in the *uparhar* tract of the Utraula tahsil, in which it comprises 6·9 per cent., especially in the Mankapur and Babhnipair parganas, but there is a good deal in the lighter portion of Balrampur and Tulsipur. In Tarabganj it amounts to 3·44 per cent., and in Gonda to no more than 1·81 per cent. The crop is, however, very extensively grown in the Gonda tahsil in combination with *arhar*. On the whole it would appear that *kodon* has everywhere declined in importance since the first regular settlement, and this is generally a favourable sign, as it has in most places, and notably in pargana Gonda, been supplanted by more valuable staples.

Sugarcane. The area under sugarcane in this district is not remarkably large, amounting on an average to 20,241 acres or 2·31 per cent. of the kharif harvest. The largest proportion is 3·25 per cent. in the Gonda tahsil, followed by 2·79 per cent. in Tarabganj, while in Utraula it is only 1·8 per cent. The cultivation of this valuable crop is, however, on the increase and has nearly doubled since the first regular settlement. Of late years there has been a slight decline, but this is merely a temporary fluctuation. It is growing in popularity in the *uparhar*, where it is regularly raised in the better fields adjoining the village sites; in the *tarhar* the soil is less suited to sugarcane, and here it is almost confined to lowlying localities, and is unirrigated, while the yield is poor.

Other kharif crops.

The other kharif crops are of very little importance. Of the larger millets, *bájra* is almost unknown, except in a small area in the Gonda tahsil, and *juár* is but seldom raised in this district, save to a small extent in Tulsipur and a few other parganas; a certain amount is, however, grown as fodder and cut while green. This does not appear to have been always the case, for at the first regular settlement *juár* covered over 95,000 acres, mainly in Tarabganj, where its place has almost wholly been taken by maize, which is a more profitable crop. There is a fair amount of *arhar* in the Utraula and Sadullahnagar parganas, as well as in the *tarai* parganas of the north, but elsewhere it is seldom to be seen, except in combination with *kodon* or other crops. Other food crops include *mandua*, chiefly in pargana Gonda, and the pulses known as *urd*, *mung*, and *moth*, but the area occupied by these crops is never large, except in parts of Balrampur and Tulsipur. There is an insignificant amount of land under oilseeds, mainly in Gonda and Tulsipur, and a very small area sown with hemp; indigo is now unknown, though it was once grown in Babhnipair and the neighbouring parganas; cotton, too, has practically disappeared, though it was once a popular crop in the Gonda tahsil and pargana Guwarich.

Rabi crops.

The crops grown in the rabi harvest may be roughly divided into three classes, the first comprising the rent-paying staples, produced for export, such as wheat, oilseeds, and opium; the second those which are regularly grown for local consumption and form the regular food of the people, as, for instance, peas and barley; and the third the supplementary crops, such as gram and *masúr*, which are chiefly raised on land which has already borne one harvest in the preceding kharif. The last are subject to considerable variations, as the area occupied by them depends largely on the nature of the season. One of the most noticeable features of recent years has been the large increase in the area under such additional crops, especially in the favourable seasons succeeding the last settlement. The following figures are the averages for all years for which records are available since 1898, but it should be observed that in most cases the figures of 1904 are very largely in excess of any previously recorded.*

* Appendix, table VI.

Wheat. The chief rabi staple is wheat, which on an average covers 205,313 acres or 27·93 per cent. of the rabi area. The proportion is highest in the loam tract of the *uparhar;* a large amount is raised in the lowlands to the south, but the quality is inferior. In the Gonda tahsil the average was 34·04 per cent., in Tarabganj 25·8, and in Utraula 25·9 per cent., but in 1904 the figures were in each case very much higher. These statistics refer to wheat sown by itself. In all parganas of the district a certain amount is mixed with barley or gram, this practice being still very prevalent throughout Tarabganj and in the northern parganas of Balrampur and Tulsipur. The increase in the wheat area since the first regular settlement has been very marked, as it then amounted to but 173,000 acres : the expansion has not been constant, for in bad seasons the acreage rapidly decreases, this being notably the case in the famine of 1897. As the crop is an expensive one and is grown almost wholly for export, the proportion of the wheat area to the land cropped is a fair index of the relative prosperity of the district in any given period.

Barley. There is a fair amount of land under barley, averaging 49,480 acres or 6·74 per cent. of the rabi harvest. The proportion is far higher in the Tarabganj tahsil than elsewhere, as it there amounts to 14·04 per cent., while in Gonda it approaches the general average and in Utraula is only 3·7 per cent. These figures are exclusive of the area under barley mixed with wheat or gram, the latter being very extensive in all parts of the district. There has been a marked decline in the barley area of late years; between the first and second regular settlements the falling off was great, but the decrease has since been even more rapid, and in 1904 the area under pure barley was only 27,798 acres, a far lower figure than that recorded on any previous occasion. This decline is generally a good sign, as the presence of a large area under barley betokens poor soil and careless cultivation, for the crop is usually unirrigated. It now survives chiefly in Tarabganj, where barley is commonly sown as a second crop after maize.

Gram. Gram, on the other hand, has rapidly advanced in popularity and now occupies an area only exceeded by wheat, the average for the whole district being 169,300 acres or 23·07 per cent. of

the rabi harvest. Gram is commonly mixed with barley or wheat, and the figures include the whole crop, whether sown alone or in combination. The average is practically the same in all tahsils, though it is slightly higher in Gonda than elsewhere. In Utraula, where there is so large an area of rice land, the practice of sowing gram as a second crop is constantly spreading, and in 1904 there were nearly 100,000 acres under this staple. The total is far in excess of that recorded at the first regular settlement, but the present figures have been surpassed on several occasions; the greatest amount ever known was over 350,000 acres in 1893-94.

Peas are a somewhat similar crop, grown largely for food, and being also sown as a rule in succession to maize or some other kharif staple. The average area is 121,000 acres or 16·5 per cent. of the rabi harvest. In the Gonda tahsil they covered 22·15 and in Tarabganj 20·55 per cent., while in Utraula the proportion was only 11·9. They do best in the lighter soils, and especially in the *tarhar* tract. The figures are subject, as in the case of gram, to considerable variations, but the area is on the whole increasing, and in 1904 the total was over 127,000 acres. Peas.

Oilseeds are a very valuable crop, especially in the north of the district. They average 95,234 acres or 12·98 per cent. of the rabi harvest, the proportion ranging from 17·4 in Utraula to 5·37 per cent. in Tarabganj. The bulk of this crop consists of linseed, of which an enormous amount is grown in Balrampur, Tulsipur, Gonda, and Utraula. In the two first of these *lahi* or rape is also important and of great value, this crop being generally grown throughout the sub-Himalayan *tarai* in these provinces. There is also a certain amount of *sarson* or mustard. At the first regular settlement the total area under oilseeds was 87,000 acres, and this was easily surpassed in the Utraula tahsil alone in 1904, when the area was little less than 97,000 acres, or more than the total average for the district in the five preceding years. More linseed comes from Gonda than from any other part of Oudh, and the outturn is only surpassed by Gorakhpur of all the districts of the United Provinces. Oilseeds.

A very favourite and a most profitable crop is opium, which is produced to a far larger extent than in most districts. It Opium.

covers on an average 24,116 acres or 3·28 per cent. of the rabi harvest. The greatest proportion is grown in Tarabganj, where it amounts to over 6 per cent. and receives far more care and attention than is paid to any other crop. In the five years preceding the last settlement the cultivators in this tahsil obtained from the sale of opium a sum that amounted on an average to 81·77 per cent. of the total revenue demand. The area has greatly increased of late years, for at the first regular settlement it was 12,411 acres, of which nearly half was in Tarabganj. From 1891 to 1900 the average was 21,227 acres, the highest recorded figure being 27,551 acres in 1897. Opium cultivation is chiefly confined to the *tarhar* and the better soils of the upland plateau, but it is not of a very high quality, as the outturn is generally inferior to that of the rest of Oudh, the average for the latter being 4·45 *sers* per *bigha*, while in Gonda it is only 3·53. The main reason for its popularity is doubtless the system of advances whereby the cultivators obtain cash at a season when they most require it; the extent to which it is grown is also due in part to the large number of Muraos resident in this district.

Other crops.

The other rabi crops call for no special comment, for those already mentioned make up over 90 per cent. of the harvest. The pulse known as *masúr* is somewhat extensively grown, especially in the Balrampur pargana; its cultivation is very similar to that of gram. There is also a fair and increasing area under potatoes, chiefly in Gonda, Balrampur, and Utraula, but the other garden cultivation is generally insignificant. A little tobacco is grown in Balrampur and elsewhere, chillies in Utraula and the Rapti basin, and *pán* in Guwarich and a few other places.

Irrigation.

The district is, on the whole, admirably provided with means of irrigation, although the proportion of irrigated to cultivated land is somewhat low as compared with that of other parts of Oudh. The reason of this lies in the peculiar configuration of the country. In the lowlying *tarai* tract to the north irrigation is seldom practised or required, owing to the natural moisture of the soil and the small depth below the surface at which water is found. Again, in the *tarhar* to the south there is comparatively little irrigation, except in the case of poppy and garden crops, for

as a rule the soil is sufficiently moist to obviate the need of artificial watering. Moreover, the prevalence of rust in this tract makes the cultivator chary of watering his crops in the cold weather. Consequently the ordinary conditions only prevail in the *uparhar* or central table land, and here the available means are generally abundant owing to the presence of numerous tanks and jhils and the ease with which wells can be constructed in almost all parts. At the first regular settlement the total area irrigated was 204,022 acres or only 19 per cent. of the cultivation. The proportion naturally exhibited great variations in different parganas: it was highest in Mankapur and Babhnipair, reaching 50 and 45 per cent. respectively, while in Gonda it was 34, and in Sadullahnagar 32, per cent.; on the other hand, there was absolutely none in Tulsipur and only six per cent. in Balrampur. In the *tarhar* parganas the average was 24 per cent., a rather high figure, but in Guwarich, which contains no upland, it was only 12 per cent. The area watered from wells and tanks was approximately equal, though the latter slightly predominated, and markedly so in Utraula and Balrampur. At the revision of 1875 the irrigated area was found to have slightly increased, but only in proportion to the cultivation. From 1886 to 1893 the average irrigated area was 250,737 acres or nearly 22 per cent. of the land under the plough; and from 1894 to 1903 the figure was even lower, the total average being 234,418 acres, and the proportion to cultivation 21·2 per cent. There has been a noticeable increase in this direction of late years, for from 1901 to 1904 the average was 284,630 acres, and in the last year 320,625 acres were watered, a higher figure than any recorded previously. On this occasion the proportion was highest in the upland parganas of the Utraula tahsil, amounting to 64 per cent. in Babhnipair, and to more than half the cultivation in the three neighbouring parganas. In Gonda it was 49 per cent., and in Utraula 41, but in the two large parganas to the north the amount watered was still almost as small as before. In Tarabganj it ranged from 32 per cent. in Mahadewa to 19 in Guwarich. As before, too, the sources of supply remained in the same proportion, tanks having an advantage of some 5,000 acres in all. They are more largely used than wells in the *tarhar*, and also in

Utraula and Balrampur; but in the rest of the Utraula tahsil wells irrigated an area double that watered from tanks, while in the Gonda pargana they are used to an approximately equal extent.

Wells. The wells chiefly in use in this district are those described as half masonry, being constructed of unburnt bricks. They predominate in all parts save the Tarabganj tahsil, where the water is so near the surface that brick walls are unnecessary. In the uplands the depth is seldom more than 20 feet, and is generally much less. Masonry wells are comparatively rare, and the majority are to be found in the Gonda and Mankapur parganas. At the first regular settlement there were 11,100 wells in the district, and since that time the number has rapidly increased. According to the returns of 1904 there were 449 masonry, 25,215 half masonry, and 9,487 unprotected wells; and, though the figures are not wholly reliable, they are sufficient to show the great strides that have been made in this direction of late years. The great majority have been built, if not entirely by the landlords, at any rate with their assistance. The zamindars are, as a body, jealous of permitting tenants to build wells, and insist on a *bazdawa* or renunciation of rights before giving permission. Where new hamlets are being established the landlord bears the whole cost of building the wells; in old established cultivation he gives the bricks or wood and the tenant constructs it. Half masonry wells are easily and cheaply made, their average price being from Rs. 40 to Rs. 50; they are fairly efficient, but their irrigating capacity does not exceed six or seven acres. The water is raised as a rule by *dhenkli* or lever, and is distributed by means of a long wooden spoon; in places where the water level is too deep, bullocks are employed, but their use in this district is rare.

Tanks. The tanks are generally natural depressions in the shape of large, shallow jhils with tolerably well defined edges. Small artificial tanks are common everywhere, but are rarely used for irrigation. The high mud banks which enclose them effectually hinder the extraction of water, and the object for which they have been constructed is usually to provide cattle with drinking water during the hot weather. In irrigating from tanks the

ordinary system is to hollow out a basin at the edge and from this the water is raised in large baskets slung on ropes by men standing at each side of the outlet, till it reaches a sufficient height above the surrounding country to allow of its flowing along slightly inclined channels to the fields. In the *tarhar* the jhils are for the most part long, narrow depressions, along which the surplus water drains slowly into the rivers. These are extensively used for irrigation at the commencement of the cold weather, but have the disadvantage of being too shallow to restrain their waters in years of abnormal rainfall, and may keep the fields on their banks submerged till it is too late to sow the spring crops.

Other sources.

The rivers and streams are but sparingly used for the purposes of irrigation, as generally the water is at too great a depth below the cultivated fields. In 1904 some 8,300 acres were watered from other sources than wells and tanks, but of this only 303 acres were in the Gonda tahsil and 517 in Tarabganj. More than half the total was in the Utraula pargana, and the bulk of the remainder in Balrampur and Tulsipur, where small streams are numerous and can be dammed without difficulty. The Manwar is also employed to some extent in pargana Mankapur. The water in these cases is raised in a manner similar to that adopted in dealing with tanks.

Security of the district.

On the whole it may be fairly asserted that few districts have better natural advantages in the matter of irrigation, and, except in a very few villages standing on the banks of rivers, in which the subsoil is light and the water level deep, there are practically no tracts which can be described as precarious on account of a deficient water supply. The danger from drought is nothing as compared with the damage to be feared from floods; the former can only affect the *uparhar*, and there the risk is but small owing to the ease with which remedial measures can be taken, while the latter constantly threatens both the *tarai* and the *tarhar*, and a series of years of prolonged excess of rain may cause deterioration from which recovery will be but slow.

Famines.

Owing to these circumstances and the general physical configuration of the district, Gonda has seldom suffered severely from famine. From time to time, however, distress has been felt

as the result of unfavourable seasons, and it would appear that in earlier years, at any rate, the calamity of famine was not unknown. In more recent times the district has suffered rather from an excess of rain than the defect, and to this cause the deterioration observed in the southern parganas at the last settlement is chiefly to be ascribed. The earliest famine of which any details are known is that of 1769. On this occasion the Fyzabad division appears to have escaped, though tradition relates that the famine was felt in Utraula at the time it was raging in Bengal. It is certain that the price of food grains rose to a great height both in this district and the neighbouring tracts, but this was due to the amount of grain exported rather than to any deficiency in the outturn. In the great famine of 1784, however, the district, and especially the eastern portion, was severely affected, and, if the accounts may be trusted, the misery far exceeded anything that has been known since. The *tarhar* was untouched, but in Gonda the price of grain rose to the unprecedented figure of 15 *sers* to the rupee, while in Utraula the people were reduced to living on berries, the bark of trees, and the seed of jungle grasses; the mortality from starvation was very great; large numbers were driven from their homes, and it is alleged that children were actually sold and eaten. Even the poorest grains were unobtainable, and it is said that only three pounds of barley could be purchased for a rupee. The whole of pargana Utraula, which then included Burhapara and Sadullahnagar, was thrown out of cultivation, and bands of starving peasantry wandered about the land plundering any stock of grain which might have remained. The forest gained rapidly on the deserted village, and became the haunt of roving Banjaras and Nagas; so great was the desolation that the tract did not recover for years, and even in 1792 land was offered at two pice per *bigha* in order to attract cultivators. In 1817 there was again severe want in the district, owing to a poor harvest and high prices. The same occurred in 1829 and 1837, but on neither occasion does the distress seem to have been very acute. No other famines occurred up to the annexation of Oudh, though in 1848 and the following year prices were far above the average.

Since the introduction of British rule there have been several periods of high prices and scarcity, but on few occasions has it been found necessary to adopt alleviative measures. In 1860 the harvests were good, but prices rose owing to exportation to Bengal, and a very heavy traffic in grain was carried on along the Ghagra. The rainfall of 1864 was deficient, causing scarcity in the ensuing year, and that of 1868 was badly distributed and was followed by an entire absence of the customary winter rains. In 1873 the rainfall was again very small, being under 22 inches for the whole district. This resulted in a famine of some intensity in 1874, which affected an area of 1,300 square miles and a population of 350,000. Prices rose very high, more than double the average rate; the stock of corn was perhaps sufficient, but there was no money wherewith to buy it in the hands of the poorer classes. It was found necessary to open relief works in Utraula and the north, and some Rs. 500 were expended daily in giving employment to about 6,000 persons. The total number of persons thus relieved from December till the rabi harvest and after was 3,593,681, counted by daily units; while in addition 29,871 received gratuitous relief at the various Government poorhouses, and the Maharaja of Balrampur gave large sums by way of outdoor relief and also fed from 250 to 300 persons daily. Famine of 1874.

The district had hardly recovered from this famine when it was again visited in 1877, owing to the failure of the rains and the high prices resulting from the scarcity prevailing in all parts of Oudh. On this occasion, however, the distress was less severe, and Gonda suffered but little in comparison with the districts to the south. The famine was only partial and lasted for a short period. The tracts most affected were the eastern half of Sadullahnagar and the western portion of Burhapara; there was also some scarcity in Mankapur and Babhnipair, but here it was of even shorter duration. Relief was not required till the middle of January 1878, and then works were opened on two *kachcha* roads. They were closed at the end of February as the harvest approached, and were afterwards opened for a fortnight at the end of June. All relief operations came to an end on the 10th of July. The numbers attending the works were never large, Famine of 1877.

and the total units relieved were 11,302 men and 21,608 women and children. These figures are sufficient to illustrate the favourable position of the district on this occasion. The kharif crop of 1877 was estimated at ten annas, or better than in any other district of the United Provinces save Bahraich alone. The revenue was paid with ease, no suspensions or remissions being necessary, and, in fact, the cultivators in the lowlying areas made large profits from the high prices commanded by their produce.

Famine of 1897.

The last famine was that of 1897, and its effects were somewhat marked in this district owing not only to the drought of 1896, but also to the damage done by the wet seasons in the preceding years and especially that of 1894. The rainfall in 1896 was sufficient, though short, in June; but in the next month it was less than half the normal. In August there was a heavy fall in the beginning of the month, but the rains practically ceased on the 20th. The kharif outturn was estimated at under 40 per cent. of the normal: early rice yielded about 4 and maize and millets 9 annas; but the *jarhan* rice was an almost entire failure. Maize did very well in Tarabganj and was fair in the Gonda tahsil, but it was very poor in Utraula, which also contains the most rice land: consequently a large area, amounting to 1,231 square miles, was affected by scarcity: the rest included the Balrampur estate, which looked after its own tenantry without any external assistance and paid its revenue in full, and the maize-producing lands in the south and south-west. In the latter the farmers realized high prices and again did well in the rabi. The failure of the harvest elsewhere resulted in considerable distress during the cold weather, especially among the lower castes and labourers. Relief works were started on the 24th of December on the intermediate petty contract system; the first was on the road from Maskinwan to Chandradip ghat, and in the following week other works were opened on the roads from Itiathok to Khargupur and from Rehra to Gumri ghat. At a later date works were commenced on the Darzi-ka-kuan to Bidianagar, the Colonelganj to Maharajganj, and the Nawabganj to Utraula roads. Four of these were closed in March 1897, and the second and last on the 23rd of June. The total amount thus expended was Rs. 26,557, and the number of persons

relieved was 233,761. The attendance was largest during the second week of January, but even then the daily number did not reach 5,000. Besides these, however, large numbers of people were employed on village works, while others were relieved in the poorhouses. The aggregate total was 1,236,540. At an early date local committees were formed to raise subscriptions for providing clothing and blankets for the poor and for the distribution of doles, both in cash and kind. The *mahajans* of Nawabganj established a private kitchen, from which they distributed cooked food; while Government poorhouses were established at Gonda and Utraula. Altogether some Rs. 34,000 were expended from the charitable relief fund. The distress practically disappeared with the rabi harvest, which was fair; it covered a full area, and the crop amounted to nearly two-thirds of the normal. A slight recrudescence of distress occurred after the harvest, but all trace of this vanished with the rains. The revenue demand was collected in full in 1896, but in the following year much difficulty was felt by the embarrassed landlords, a numerous class in this district, and suspensions were sanctioned to the extent of Rs. 1,14,058, and Rs. 2,274 were remitted. The whole of the former was recovered in the succeeding year, and since that time no calamity has occurred to render any such treatment necessary.

Prices.

The history of prices in this district differs but little from that of Fyzabad, or, indeed, of any district of Oudh. The information as to prices in early years is somewhat fuller, as details have been preserved in several instances; but as the figures are in local measures, which are never stable, the conversion to modern standards can be only considered as approximately correct. Government records of the old districts of the North-Western Provinces show that at the beginning of the nineteenth century prices were far lower than at any period subsequent to the annexation of Oudh; at the same time the oscillations were extremely violent, to a degree which could not occur nowadays in the presence of an abundant metal currency and vastly improved means of communication. Thus in 1783, the great famine year, the average rate of all food grains was 21 *sers* to the rupee, or at least three times as great as the prevailing rate. Again, in 1817

and the following year prices rose enormously, out of all proportion to the scarcity, and the same occurred in 1830, 1836, and 1837. The old records are, however, chiefly of interest as showing the extreme cheapness that generally prevailed. In 1815 wheat and rice sold at 100 *sers,* and barley and gram at 143 *sers;* eleven *kachcha* maunds of *kodon* could be obtained for a rupee. Bad seasons followed, but the averages from 1815 to 1819 were—rice, 60 *sers;* wheat, 47 *sers;* barley, 81 *sers;* and gram, 68 *sers.* That the average was greatly reduced by famine is shown by the fact that from 1828 to 1830 the price of rice and gram fell to 86 *sers* and wheat to 50 *sers.* Prices appear to have remained low till after the Mutiny. Official records are extant from 1861 onwards, and from these it is evident that the upward tendency did not set in to any marked extent till 1866 or thereabouts. Prices had, however, risen considerably during the disorders of 1857 and the following year; and ever since that date they have shown great reluctance to return to a lower level. The rates, which are the retail rates of the market and probably 25 per cent. above those of the threshing-floor, show that in the first five years from 1861 onwards grain was undoubtedly cheap: rice averaged 26·62 *sers;* wheat, 35·36; barley, 54·81; gram 41·14; and *arhar,* 39·59 *sers.* The ensuing decade witnessed a great change, owing partly to several indifferent seasons and partly to the development of the export trade. From 1866 to 1875 the averages were—rice, 18·15 *sers;* wheat, 21·72; barley, 30·17; and gram, 26·16 *sers* to the rupee. From 1876 to 1880 the averages were upset by the famine that occurred during that period, but the second half of the decade showed a distinct relapse, the averages for the ten years ending in 1885 being—rice, 16·82 *sers;* wheat, 20·87; barley, 31·91; and gram, 26·32 *sers.* About 1886 a marked rise occurred throughout the north of India, owing apparently to various external causes rather than to any failure of the harvests, which had been generally abundant. The improvement in the market had a pronounced effect on the agriculture, and the cultivated area increased by leaps and bounds. But, while the landed interest benefited, the result was not so agreeable to those in receipt of cash wages. From 1886 to 1900 prices remained extraordinarily

high, culminating in the famine year of 1896-97, when all previous records were surpassed. While the averages for the whole period were—rice, 13·68 *sers*; wheat, 15·46; barley, 21·12; gram, 20·25; and maize, 22·59 *sers*, the rates during the famine were even higher. The average prices of rice and wheat in 1897 were 8·9 and 9·98 *sers* respectively, and gram was no cheaper than wheat; these two are the averages for the whole year, whereas when the distress was greatest the amounts obtainable for a rupee were still smaller. Since 1900 prices have relaxed somewhat; they were high in 1901, owing to large exportations, but have since steadily fallen. In 1903-4 the rates were—rice, 11·83 *sers*; wheat, 16·78; barley, 25·24; and gram, 23·37 *sers*. How far they are likely to continue in a downward direction is purely a matter for speculation; but there appears no immediate probability of a return to the easy rates prevailing before 1886.

Wages.

The rise in prices has necessarily had an effect on the amount paid as wages, at any rate in the case of skilled and general labour. The demand occasioned by the construction of roads and railways, added to the effects of emigration, has resulted in a considerable rise in wages, and it is now difficult to obtain unskilled men for three annas per diem. The wages of agricultural labourers, on the other hand, have probably not risen in like proportion, though the system of paying the ploughman in grain an amount just sufficient for his support renders it very difficult to make a definite statement on the subject. The system of *sáwak* labour, so common in the adjoining district of Bahraich, is still well known in Gonda. The *sáwak* is a member of the lower castes, such as Koris, Chamars, or Lunias, who for a fixed sum of money, almost invariably required for marriage expenses, binds himself in serfdom to the zamindar until the loan be repaid—a contingency which hardly ever occurs in actual experience. The consideration varies with the necessities of the borrower, but rarely exceeds one hundred or is less than twenty rupees. A man in this position receives the ploughman's customary share in the produce, supplemented by contributions from his master, which are converted at the market rate and added to the principal. The present tendency of the practice to disappear

is partly due to the increase of population and partly to the fact that the debt is not recognised by law. A modified form exists whereby the labourer hires himself out for a year, in consideration of a small payment and the customary dole. Where this system is not in force the labourer receives either a cash wage of about two and a half rupees a month, though the constant complaint of the landlords is that the rate is rising to two annas per diem, with a blanket in winter and perhaps two local maunds of grain at harvest or else a grain wage of four or five *kachcha sers* of coarse grain daily.

Interest. The cultivators are commonly indebted, as also are the smaller zamindars, but probably not to the same extent as in some other parts of Oudh. The village bania is generally regarded rather as the friend of the people than otherwise, and it is certain that a large proportion of the population, whether on account of unthriftiness or otherwise, could hardly manage to exist without recourse to the lender of money or grain. In the old days of grain rents the cultivator used to set apart the best of his share for seed; but he is now compelled at once to sell his wheat in order to pay the rent and to rely on the bania for an advance at next sowing time. This system has resulted in a marked deterioration of seed, which does not apply to the inferior grain stuffs, such as maize, barley, and early rice, the latter being kept for food and not sold. The rate of interest in cash loans varies according to the circumstances of the borrower. The most common rates are between Rs. 2 and Rs. 3 per cent. per mensem, a very high charge, though the loan is as a rule made for a short period only and for a small amount, while the risk involved is considerable. When security is offered the rate is materially reduced, and a taluqdar may be able to secure a loan on his estate at no more than 6 per cent. In the case of grain advanced either for food or seed the interest consists mainly of the difference in the market rates at the time when the transaction takes place and at harvest, when repayment is made. The system known as *úp* is frequently adopted for a short period, when the stock is running low a few weeks before harvest. In this case the cultivator borrows a sum of money on condition of repayment when the crops are reaped; the loan is redeemed in

grain at the market price then prevailing, while five or ten *sers* are added on each rupee by way of interest. These terms are severe, as the lender obtains double interest, and that at a considerably high rate. Other forms are those known as *deorhi* or *sawai*, which are prevalent throughout Oudh. In such cases the interest is one-half or one-quarter of the principal.

Village banks.

Agricultural banks on the co-operative credit system were tentatively started in this district in 1901, but the experiment has as yet been conducted on a very small scale. Three banks were opened—two at Birpur and Ramnagar under the superintendence of the court of wards and managed by the usual *panchayat*, of which an official of the court is a member, and the third at Majhgawan in Mahadewa, under the control of Bhaiya Sripat Bakhsh Singh, one of the taluqdars of that place.

Weights and measures.

The local standards of measurement generally resemble those found throughout Oudh, though there are some variations peculiar to this district. Measures of length are commonly based on the *háth* or cubit or on the *qadam* or stride. The latter is equivalent to one and a half of the former, and two *qadams* make the *kasi* or double pace, which may be taken as roughly five feet. Twenty *kasis* make a *bádh*, and 100 *bádhs* make a *kos*. The latter is thus 10,000 feet or little short of two miles, but the measure is admittedly approximate. The local *bigha* is a square *bádh*, which is thus 1,101 square yards; but here, again, local variations occur without number, the size of the *bigha* being altered at will. As a rule it may be considered as one-third of the standard measure of 3,025 square yards. The latter was employed at both the regular settlements, and is consequently well known throughout the district. Standards of weight are subject to similar fluctuations. The Government *ser* of 80 *tolas* of 180 grains each is generally recognized, but, as elsewhere in Oudh, the local standard is the *panseri* of five *kachcha sers*. In this district, as in Bahraich, the *panseri* is calculated as made up of a number of *gandas* of six units, and the unit is the Farrukhabadi rupee of 172 grains. It is thus somewhat less than the four-unit *ganda* found in other parts of Oudh and derived from the Maddushahi pice, which is here unknown. The commonest *panseri* is one of 25 *gandas*, but at Nawabganj it rises to 26, and

at Colonelganj to 28 *gandas*. In the east of Tulsipur the *panseri* is reckoned at 152 or 153 Farrukhabadi rupees, or between 25 and 26 *gandas*. There is a constant tendency towards the supersession of these local weights by the Government standards, and several old systems have become obsolete since annexation. One reason for this is the disappearance of the old coinage, although the small Gorakhpuri pice are still to be seen: their value depends on the price of grain, and neither they nor their components, the *dám* and cowrie, can be regarded in any way as a standard. In measuring grain for division between the zamindar and cultivator no weights are employed, but the process is effected by large baskets, called *pathis*; they have no standard of capacity, but as a rule contain as much as two men can lift.

Manufactures.

The manufactures of the district are of very slight importance, as the inhabitants are mainly engaged in agriculture, and there are no industries but those which are to be found in all parts of Oudh for the supply of the modest needs of a rural population. Cotton-weaving is carried on to a considerable extent by the Julahas and Koris, who still turn out large quantities of rough *gárha* or country cloth, though the business has declined by reason of competition on the part of factory-made fabrics. The cotton is imported but ginned and cleaned locally. Cotton-printing is done at several places, such as Birpur, Katra, Nawabganj, and Paras, and the work is of good quality, although in this respect, as in the case of most other articles, the chief source of supply is Fyzabad. Cloth is often dyed with catechu, which was formerly produced in considerable quantities in the northern forests of the district, though, owing to the lack of management, the *khair* forests have become almost exhausted. The production of catechu was generally effected by Chains or other low caste Hindus, the working season being at the end of February. Brass vessels are for the most part imported, but a certain number come from Khargupur in Gonda, Machhligaon in Mankapur, and elsewhere. The pottery of the district is of the usual kind, save that made at Utraula, where *gharras* and other common vessels are painted by local artists or *kamangars* in flower patterns. The designs are entirely unaffected by European influence and are often of considerable artistic merit; the ground is usually

dark green and the flowers are painted on this with great skill and brilliance. The ware resembles that of Biswan in Sitapur, and is chiefly made for presentation purposes. Glass bangles are manufactured by Lunias in several places, and are either sold locally or exported to Fyzabad. There is a considerable business in basket-weaving and similar work done from the canes which grow in the Kuwana river, and fair quantities of such produce are exported by rail to Lucknow and elsewhere.

Trade. The trade of the district is, on the other hand, of some importance, owing partly to the value of the agricultural and forest produce, and partly to the proximity of Nepal. The principal article of export is the fine rice of the sub-Himalayan lowlands, for which the Tulsipur pargana has long been famous; some of the choicer varieties are yearly bought up in advance and command a high price in the bazars of Upper India. Other valuable products are wheat and hides, the former being exported in large quantities to Cawnpore after the spring harvest. To these may be added timber, fuel, *bankas* and *baib* grass from the forests, dried fish, oilseeds, and other grains. The chief articles of import are such as are most in request in an agricultural district in which there is an almost complete absence of manufactures. This trade is for the most part in the hands of petty retailers, and consists of cloth and piece goods, metals, salt, spices, and the like.

Trade routes. The old lines of trade have been materially altered by the advent and the subsequent extensions of the railway. Formerly the main routes led through Nawabganj by river to Bengal, through Colonelganj to Lucknow, over Materia ghat to Basti, and by the northern passes to Nepal. The great bulk of the traffic is now carried by rail to Cawnpore, whence it is despatched either to the sea coast or distributed over the interior. Cart traffic *viâ* Bahramghat to Lucknow has dwindled greatly, and is now only resorted to when the rolling stock of the railway proves insufficient to carry off the large amount of grain awaiting export. The same decline may be observed in the traffic with Basti. The tendency of the grain trade has been rather towards concentration in a few commercial centres, such as Tulsipur and Colonelganj, in which the grain is bought up by wealthy

merchants and stored until the prices prevailing in Cawnpore or other foreign markets make it profitable to export in large quantities; the result is seen in a marked decrease of the trade with small markets in the Basti district unconnected with the railway. Of this nature was the once considerable traffic which passed along the road from Utraula and Balrampur to Domariaganj and Bansi, or during the rains by river down the Rapti or Burhi Rapti. The flow of trade is now reversed: strings of carts may be seen carrying the famous Bansi rice to Tulsipur or Nawabganj, while almost the only export from Gonda into Basti is wood from the Government and private forests in the north of the district. Another change may be expected in this direction, as the completion of the line from Uska Bazar to Tulsipur will doubtless aid the tendency towards the concentration of trade on the railway. The course of evolution is consequently the same as elsewhere. Rivers, the natural means of communication, are first supplanted by roads, and especially metalled roads, and then the railway with its more rapid, cheap, and secure means of transit secures a constantly increasing proportion of the traffic.

Nepal trade.

The trade with the neighbouring state of Nepal is of a somewhat different character, as hitherto the old routes and the methods of carriage have remained unchanged, although the small branch line of railway to Jharwa will certainly have its effects. The frontier extends for some thirty-six miles along the foot of the lower hills, and again on the eastern side of Tulsipur the Arrah divides British and Nepalese territories for twenty-two miles as far as its junction with the Burhi Rapti. Trade finds its way over the hill frontier through nine difficult passes, of which only two are practicable to hill ponies. Their names are Bhusahar, Jharwa, Baisimatha, Bachkahwa, Kamri, Nandmahra, Bhaishi, Barhawa, and Khangra. The chief Nepalese bazar along this line is Deokhar, and through these passes come numerous small parties of hillmen bearing on their backs deep baskets laden with the produce of Nepal. The Arrah is crossed by a ferry at Parasrampur, about halfway between the forest and the Burhi Rapti, while at the confluence of the two streams there is a second ferry, approached by a road running from Domariaganj in Basti. Traffic is registered at two posts, Tulsipur and

Mohkampur, the latter being a village near Jharwa. In 1904-5 the total amount of imports was about 150,000 maunds, to which fibrous articles and oilseeds each contributed over one-third, while the rest was chiefly made up of food grains, mainly rice and wheat, drugs and spices, iron, and *ghi*. The exports for the same period were only 13,500 maunds, of which no less than 7,500 maunds consisted of salt, while the remainder consisted of piece-goods, sugar, tobacco, kerosine oil, vegetables, and fruit, and other various articles of food, including a large amount of dried fish, which is highly prized by the hillmen, who rate it according to the strength of its flavour.

Markets. The same influences which have affected the trade routes have also left their mark on the various bazars of the district. A list of all the markets will be found in the appendix. The majority of these are of purely local importance, being small gatherings held once or twice a week in convenient centres for the supply of the modest needs of the agricultural population. In several cases these country marts have developed into recognized places of trade and the bazar is open daily, but only a few of them can be considered collecting and distributing centres of commerce. In old days the chief markets were Tulsipur, Utraula, and Nawabganj, on the route from the *tarai* rice fields to Fyzabad, and Gonda, Katra, and Colonelganj for the trade from the north to Bahramghat and Lucknow. Since the extension of the railway system the relative importance of these places has greatly changed. Utraula and Katra, being off the railway, have declined, and Nawabganj has ceased to be the great emporium it was, as the river traffic has so greatly decreased, and the construction of the Elgin bridge has made through direct communication with Lucknow and Cawnpore far more easy than before. Those markets, on the other hand, which lie on the main lines of railway have rapidly come to the front, and new bazars have sprung up at the stations of Itiathok, Kauria, Maskinwan, and elsewhere, which have attracted the trade that was in old days carried on at markets which are now comparatively remote. The many local bazars still serve their original purpose, and reference will be made to the more important places in the various tahsil and pargana articles.

Fairs.

The fairs periodically held in this district are not very numerous, nor do they possess as a rule any great religious or commercial interest. The most celebrated is that of Debi Patan near Tulsipur, on which a separate article will be found. This fair, which occurs in the beginning of Chait and attracts some 75,000 people, is largely attended by merchants from Nepal and elsewhere, and is an occasion for considerable traffic in hill produce, and especially in the well-known *tanghan* ponies, bred in the lower valleys of Nepal. A list of all the fairs has been given in the appendix, and from this it will be seen that actually the largest is the bathing fair at Maheshpur near Nawabganj, where crowds of pilgrims assemble to wash away their sins in the sacred waters of the Ghagra at the full moon of Kartik and the Ramnaumi, when similar gatherings occur on the opposite bank at Ajodhya. These fairs, however, like all the rest, are practically devoid of any commercial interest. Other bathing fairs are held at Paska and Mauhari on the Ghagra, at Colonelganj on the Sarju, at Ramnagar in pargana Gonda on the Terhi, and at Tirra Manorama in the same pargana on the Manwar. This last is an old institution in honour of Dalak Muni, a local saint, who is held in great veneration by the country people. The fairs at Asokpur, Jankinagar, Machhligaon, and Bijlipur near Balrampur are mentioned in the articles on those places, and besides these there are none of any size save that of Baleshwarnath at Bhat Babhni in pargana Mahadewa.

Communications.

Gonda is now, on the whole, well supplied with means of communication, owing both to the rapid development of the railway system during recent years and also to the great increase in the number of roads. In former days the state of affairs was very different, and most of the district was very inaccessible. The Ghagra was the principal highway, and navigation of the Rapti to some extent gave access to the towns of Utraula and Balrampur. There were a few roads in the interior prior to annexation, but most of them were in a miserable condition and hardly any were practicable during the rains. In 1856 the existing roads were taken in hand and new routes surveyed, but little was effected owing to the outbreak of the Mutiny. Upon the restoration of order the attention of the district officers was

called to the urgent necessity of improving the roads, and laying out new ones, and as early as 1861 a fair number had been completed. The work has been carried on without intermission to the present day, and now the district is covered with a network of roads leading in all directions. Owing to the nature of the country they are of very varying quality; metalled roads, of which the first was that to Fyzabad, completed in 1863, are still few in number, and the others are for the most part fair-weather tracks, especially in the lowlying portions of the district. While the railways have vastly improved matters, the outlying portions are often very difficult of approach. Generally speaking, the less frequented roads are passable, save when inundated, but the main arteries of traffic, and notably the roads leading from Mankapur to Nawabganj and from Utraula to Tulsipur, are in a state that would test, and, as the sight of numerous breakdowns proves, only too successfully, the axle-tree of the strongest country cart. North of the Rapti the village roads are rendered more difficult by the many torrent beds which have to be crossed.

Railways.

One of the most important events in the history of communications in this district was the construction of the great railway bridge near Bahramghat, which gave Gonda direct communication by rail with Lucknow. The completion of this magnificent work on the 24th December 1898 brought into full play the various lines of railway which had already been laid down in the district. All these lines form part of the large metre-gauge system now known as the Bengal and North-Western Railway. In May 1882 sanction was given to an important scheme which comprised the construction of a line from Gorakhpur to Mankapur and Bahraich and the branch from Mankapur to Lakarmandi ghat opposite Ajodhya. On the 2nd April 1884 the portion from Mankapur to Gonda and Bahraich was opened, as well as the 14 miles from Mankapur to Nawabganj, the remaining 6·1 miles of the branch to Lakarmandi being completed on the 1st of December of the same year. The main line from Mankapur to Gorakhpur was not opened to regular traffic till the 15th of January 1885. The next step was taken in November 1889, when the construction of the line from Gonda to Jarwal in the south of the Bahraich district was

sanctioned. This was opened for passenger traffic on the 1st of February 1892, and the railway ran no further in this direction till the completion of the Elgin bridge. In January 1895 another branch line which had for some time been contemplated was sanctioned. This was that running from Gonda to Balrampur and thence to Tulsipur, the former portion of twenty-two miles being completed on the 15th of December 1896, and the remaining nineteen miles on the 1st of June 1898. In order to complete the system sanction was given on the 31st of March 1903 to the construction of a line from Tulsipur to Uska Bazar in Basti, with a branch of 12·56 miles from Gaisanri to Jharwa near the Nepal border. This great development of the railway system has vastly improved the means of communication in the district and has given a great impetus to the export trade. On the main line from Gorakhpur to the Elgin bridge there are stations at Babhnan, Maskinwan, Mankapur, Bidianagar, Gonda Town, Gonda Kachehri, Maijapur, Colonelganj, and Sarju. On the line from Gonda to Bahraich there is one station, at Kauria; on that from Gonda to Tulsipur four, at Itiathok, Balrampur, Kawapur, and Tulsipur; and on the branch from Mankapur to Ajodhya four, at Tikri, Nawabganj, Katra, and Lakarmandi ghat.

Roads.

During the days of Nawabi administration there were hardly any roads worthy of the name. We learn from Sir William Sleeman that some sort of a road existed between Fyzabad, Gonda, and Bahraich, and as it passed through Nawabganj, Wazirganj, and Pharhenda, it appears to have followed the line of the present route. Presumably, too, there was a road from Gonda to Colonelganj and Bahramghat, and possibly to Balrampur. Among the first roads to be taken in hand by the British administration were the imperial unmetalled highway from Fyzabad to Gonda; the road from the latter place to Bahramghat, maintained by the road and ferry fund; and local aided roads leading from Gonda to Balrampur and Tulsipur, to Utraula, to Begamganj, and to Bahraich; from Colonelganj to Nawabganj and Balrampur; and from the two last places to Utraula. Others have been added from time to time, and several of the existing roads have been metalled, either wholly or in part; this work is still being carried on, and has already resulted in a great

improvement. In 1904 there were altogether 600 miles of road in the district, and of this 105 miles were metalled, while the latter figure will be increased when the metalling of the roads from Utraula to Nawabganj and Gonda is completed. A list of all the existing roads will be found in the appendix, and their position is shown in the map. There are now no provincial roads in the district, but all are under local management, and the cost of upkeep is borne by the district board. They are divided into five classes, known as first class metalled roads; second class roads, unmetalled, bridged and drained throughout; second class roads, unmetalled, partially bridged and drained; fifth class roads, cleared, partially bridged and drained; and sixth class roads, cleared only, these last being little better than mere cart tracks. The maintenance of the metalled roads and of the bridges and culverts on those of the second class is undertaken by the Public Works department, while the rest are kept in order by local agency. The cost of upkeep in 1904 was Rs. 19,000 for the metalled, and Rs. 4,730 for the unmetalled, roads, exclusive of the sum expended by the district board on roads under their sole control, which is included in civil works.* Encamping grounds are maintained at Gonda, Darzi-ka-kuan, Wazirganj, and Nawabganj on the route from Gonda to Fyzabad, and there are inspection bungalows at these places, as well as at Balrampur, Maharajganj, Utraula, Dhanepur, Sindhaura ghat, and Colonelganj. Besides the roads shown in the list, there are those within the Gonda municipality, aggregating 9·3 miles, and a number in pargana Tulsipur maintained either by the Forest department or by the Balrampur estate.

Another list given in the appendix shows the ferries over the various rivers. A number of these, and especially those over the Ghagra and Rapti, are maintained by the district board, which derives a large annual income from this source, although the sum obtained from the Ghagra ferries has greatly declined since the construction of the Elgin bridge. The bridge of boats at Lakarmandi ghat opposite Ajodhya, replaced by a ferry steamer during the rains, is leased by the Fyzabad authorities to the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and that at Miranghat, Ferries.

*Appendix, table XV.

leading to the Fyzabad cantonments, is under the control of the Fyzabad district board; there are also four private ferries over the Ghagra, owned by zamindars. The ferries over the Rapti are seven in number, the most frequented being those at Sisai and Materia. All the ferries on the Terhi are private save those at Ramanpur, Balpur, and Durjanpur, which lie on district board roads; and so are those over the Sarju, excepting that at Katra on the road from Gonda to Bahramghat. All of these are, however, only maintained during the monsoon. The various rivers are bridged on the main roads, including all of the first and most of the second class, but elsewhere the passage of the streams has to be made by fording, a difficult and frequently impossible operation during the rains.

Water-ways.

The Ghagra and Rapti are navigable throughout their length in this district, and are still used to a certain extent for the carriage of grain, timber, and other articles owing to the cheapness of this method of transit. The amount of traffic is, however, quite insignificant as compared with that of former days; for the railways, by providing a far more certain and expeditious means of carriage, have almost wholly supplanted these old highways of commerce. After the Mutiny attempts were made, but unsuccessfully, to establish a line of steamers on the Ghagra between Bahramghat and the markets lower down; the scheme has been revived of late years, but the steamers, which are of the stern-wheel type, do not ascend further than Ajodhya. A certain number of country boats are still maintained for carrying rice from Nawabganj to Patna and elsewhere; but the trade is declining year by year, and the effect is very obvious in the diminished prosperity of Nawabganj. This route has, in addition to the merit of cheapness, the prestige of long custom, and many traders of the more conservative type are loath to abandon it for the newer method of transit. Its great disadvantage is the uncertainty of date of arrival, and there is also considerable risk of damage to the cargo, for the navigation of the river is a matter of some difficulty owing to the number and instability of the shoals. Traffic on the Rapti has declined to an even more pronounced extent, and now consists of little but timber floated down from the forests of Bahraich and Nepal.

CHAPTER III.

THE PEOPLE.

THE first enumeration of the population of the district took place at the Oudh census of 1869. This was effected mainly through the agency of the patwaris, while the taluqdars rendered much assistance. The number of inhabitants as then ascertained was 1,168,462, which gave an average density of 414 to the square mile. This was a very high figure, considering the large proportion of forests and uninhabited jungle land in the district and also the fact that it had not fully recovered from the effects of mismanagement in the years of Nawabi rule. The district then contained 2,818 towns and villages, but of these no less than 2,626 possessed under 1,000 inhabitants apiece, and only forty had more than 2,000. Of the latter, five, comprising the towns of Gonda, Balrampur, Colonelganj, Nawabganj, and Utraula, had a population exceeding 5,000, while the remainder consisted merely of large agricultural villages. Census of 1869.

This first census was considered to be in many ways defective, partly on account of the novelty of the experiment, which caused suspicion and in many cases led to concealment, and partly by reason of the faulty instructions issued to enumerators. The next census was that of 1881, and it was then ascertained that the district contained 1,270,926 inhabitants, the increase during the past twelve years being no less than 102,464 persons, a higher figure than in any other part of Oudh, although progress had been proportionately more rapid in the adjoining district of Bahraich. The density had risen to 442 persons to the square mile, a figure which, though naturally smaller than in any of the southern districts of Oudh, was well up to the average of the province and very much higher than in Kheri, Bahraich, Hardoi, and Sitapur. The recorded number of towns and villages was 2,790, and of these 2,575 contained less than 1,000 inhabitants and forty-five over 2,000. Those possessing more than 5,000 persons apiece remained the same as before. Census of 1881.

Census of 1891.

The ensuing ten years was a period of exceptional prosperity in the district, and consequently the increase in the population was more rapid than before. In 1891 the district contained 1,459,229 inhabitants, giving an average density of 506·6 persons to the square mile. Every district of Oudh showed a remarkable increase at this census, but nowhere was it greater than in Gonda, the increment being actually larger than in any other portion of the United Provinces.

Census of 1901.

The last enumeration was that of March the 1st, 1901, and on that occasion the number of inhabitants was returned at 1,403,195. This showed a decrease of 56,034 persons, and, though this figure was slightly larger than the reality by reason of the absence of considerable numbers at the great fair at Ajodhya, there can be no doubt as to an actual decline. The chief reasons assigned for this are the recurring epidemics of fever, which carried off larger numbers than at any time previously recorded, and also the famine year of 1896-97, which appears to have exercised a decidedly adverse influence on the population of this district. The density fell to 499·4 persons to the square mile, which placed Gonda ninth among the districts of Oudh. This figure is the average for the whole district, and a better idea can be obtained from an examination of the totals for the different tahsils. In Utraula, which contains practically the whole forest area, the average rate per square mile was only 422; in Tarabganj it was 560; while in the Gonda tahsil, the most thickly populated part of the district, it was no less than 620, a figure which closely approximates to the results obtained in the highly developed districts of southern Oudh.

Towns and villages.

Out of a total of 2,768 inhabited towns and villages, 2,523 contained less than 1,000 inhabitants apiece; 200 had between one and two thousand; and forty-five, as at the previous census, had over 2,000. Besides the two municipalities of Balrampur and Gonda, the towns of Colonelganj, Nawabganj, and Utraula contained over 5,000 persons apiece, as also did the vast scattered villages of Itai Rampur in pargana Utraula and Cooknagar in Burhapara. The district contains an unusual number of such villages, which are merely composed of a collection of detached hamlets and are only treated as a single village for

revenue purposes. The dispersion of the population into numerous hamlets is one of the most striking peculiarities of this district, and several of the larger villages possess as many as fifty or sixty detached sites. There are none of the walled and fortified villages which are to be seen in the western districts of the United Provinces, and consequently the importance of a village does not in the least depend on the size of its population. This phenomenon operates adversely on the agriculture of the district, owing to the consequent absence of that high cultivation in the immediate neighbourhood of large village sites which is so prominent a feature in some parts of Oudh and especially in Bara Banki. One of the reasons is that the land has for the most part been brought under cultivation at a comparatively recent date. Two centuries ago the amount of cultivated land in Gonda must have been small in comparison with the area covered by forests or scrub jungle. When land on or beyond the boundaries of the village is broken up by the plough, the erection of houses for the cultivators on the spot saves much time and trouble and ensures greater protection to the crops from the wild animals infesting the neighbouring jungle.

Urban population.

The number of places in the district which can with any accuracy be described as towns is small, and besides those already mentioned includes only Katra, Khargupur, and possibly Paraspur and Tulsipur. At the last census the urban population was estimated at 4·2 per cent. of the whole, a low figure, which corresponds closely to the general average for the purely agricultural districts of Oudh. The rural population resided in 245,884 houses, giving an average of 5·44 persons to each house. The dwellings of the people are almost invariably built with mud and thatch, though the use of tiles for roofing has become more general of late years. In the case of agriculturists it is customary for the zamindar to supply the material, while the tenant provides the labour; he retains possession of his house so long as he remains in the village. A small fee is commonly paid for the use of the ground when a new house is built, but no further rent is charged. The houses of the poorer classes consist of a small courtyard with huts built against two or three sides, and those of the well-to-do are composed of two or three courtyards, with a

broad verandah running along the inside of the wall, in which the principal door is made. Brick houses are rare in the towns and almost unknown elsewhere.

Migration. The decrease in the population during the ten years preceding the last census may to some extent be attributed to migration. The statistics of birthplace show that 92·71 per cent. of the persons enumerated were born in Gonda, a proportion which is well above the average for Oudh and, indeed, was only exceeded in Partabgarh and Bara Banki. Of the remainder, 6·24 per cent. were natives of adjacent territory, and only 1·05 per cent. came from elsewhere. The total percentage of immigrants of the whole population was therefore only 7·29, or less than the amount recorded in 1891; most of them, too, were females. On the other hand, this addition to the population was more than counteracted by emigration. Of all the persons enumerated in India who gave Gonda as their birthplace 93·57 per cent. were found in their native district and 6·43 per cent. in other parts of India; but this of course does not include the numerous emigrants to Nepal, nor the 14,000 registered foreign emigrants who left the district for the West Indies, Fiji, Natal, and elsewhere.

Sex. Of the whole population, 714,204 were males and 688,991 females. This gave an average of 96·5 females to every hundred males, the proportion being very similar in the adjoining districts of Bara Banki, Fyzabad, and Basti. In the east there is a general tendency towards an excess of females, while to the west the reverse is the case, the disproportion being more marked in Bahraich. As in most other districts, the recorded number of females has steadily increased: at the first Oudh census there were but 93·2 to every hundred males, while at the following enumeration the number rose to 95·3 and 95·5 successively. The disproportion is not confined to any particular creed or caste, as it is equally marked among the Hindus and Musalmans of the district. It cannot consequently be ascribed in any degree to infanticide, although the practice was undoubtedly prevalent before annexation.

Religions. The classification of the population according to religions showed 1,189,005 Hindus, 213,451 Musalmans, 321 Christians,

315 Sikhs, 94 Aryas, eight Jains, and one Parsi. The Hindus numbered 84·74 per cent. of the whole, and Musalmans 15·21 per cent. The latter is a high figure and greatly in excess of the general average for Oudh, although it is surpassed in Lucknow, Bahraich, and Bara Banki. As in most of the districts, it is noticeable that the Musalmans have of late years increased much more rapidly than their Hindu brethren. In 1881 the proportion was only 13·26 per cent. and ten years later 14·08 per cent. This cannot be ascribed in any way to conversion, but rather to the greater longevity and fertility of the followers of Islam as compared with the Hindus, the apparent reason being their adoption of a more liberal diet, resulting in a stronger constitution. The phenomenon is common to almost every district of Oudh, though nowhere has the increase been more rapid than in Gonda.

At the last census the Christian population included 95 Europeans, 51 Eurasians, and 175 natives. Of the last 45 belonged to the Anglican communion, 38 were Presbyterians, 61 Methodists, while in the case of the remaining 31 no denomination was returned. The progress of Christianity in this district has not been very rapid. The total number of Native Christians was 104 in 1881, and 139 ten years later. The chief missionary agency is that of the American Methodists, who began work at Gonda in 1865, when a school for boys was started in the bazar and a small school for girls opened at the missionary's house. Since that date the Golaganj mission has been considerably developed. The boys' school has largely increased in size, and a branch has been opened at Bargaon near the railway station; there is also an aided school at Nawabganj. The girls' school is now located in a good brick building of its own, and attached to it is a boarding house. There is a lady missioner at Gonda, as well as a native pastor, while other workers reside at Wazirganj, Mankapur, and Kauria, and ministers are stationed at Balrampur, Tulsipur, and Colonelganj. At Allenpur in the Mankapur pargana there is a small Christian community, with a church built recently to replace an older structure. The church at Gonda was originally much larger, and was designed for the use of the troops in cantonments; it was built in 1860 at a cost of Rs. 9,000, Christianity.

of which Rs. 1,000 were raised by private subscription. It is dedicated to St. Thomas and was consecrated by Bishop Cotton on the 13th of December 1860. In 1863, after the removal of the garrison, the church was cut down to its present small dimensions. It is now visited periodically by the chaplain of Fyzabad. Of the total number of Christians of all races, 86 resided in 1901 in the Gonda tahsil, 128 in Tarabganj, and 107 in Utraula.

Arya Samaj.

The Arya Samaj has failed to make much headway in this district. In 1891 there were no Aryas in Gonda, and the 94 followers of this creed recorded at the last census are mainly recent converts. Some delegates came to the district from Moradabad and a little enthusiasm was raised, meetings being held two or three times a week. Lately the movement has become almost extinct and no regular meetings take place. The Aryas were mainly Kayasths, Banias, and Brahmans, numbering 44, 31, and 11 persons, respectively. The rest included four Thatheras, two Rajputs, one Kurmi, and one Gadariya woman. The majority of them belonged to the Gonda tahsil, only five being found in Utraula and 24 in Tarabganj.

Sikhs and others.

The 315 Sikhs are made up of policemen and retainers and a few settlers in the district. There were 136 in Tarabganj, 92 in Gonda, and 87 in Utraula. Two families live in pargana Paharapur, while others are in the service of the Kapurthala estate or of the grantees of Chahlari. The eight Jains and the single Parsi were traders at Nawabganj.

Hindu castes.

The Hindu population is made up of members of a great variety of castes, and at the last census no less than 74 such castes, excluding sub-divisions, were enumerated, while in the case of 1,591 persons no caste was specified. Only a small number of these, however, are of any great importance. Four castes had over 100,000 members apiece, together amounting to nearly half the Hindu population, while ten others possessed more than 20,000 members each, and twelve more over 10,000. The great majority of these castes are common to almost every district of Oudh and few occur in unusual proportions. There are one or two which deserve special mention, either because they occur only in Gonda or because their number is comparatively larger here than in any other part of the province.

Brahmans form by far the strongest caste in the district. They numbered 213,888 persons or 17·98 per cent. of the Hindu inhabitants. There are more Brahmans in Gonda than in any other parts of Oudh, and, indeed, of the whole of the United Provinces, with the single exception of Gorakhpur. They predominate in every tahsil, except Utraula, where their number is slightly exceeded by the Ahirs. The vast majority of them belong to the Sarwaria sub-division, but there are considerable numbers of Kanaujias, Sakaldipis, and Sanadhs. The Brahmans of Gonda have long been famous for their turbulence and military prowess, and they were not the least important element in the forces of the great Bisen rajas. At the present time they betake themselves almost wholly to agriculture, and as tenants they hold a larger area than any other caste. In spite of their numbers they generally retain their traditional privilege, as their rent is usually much lower than that of their low caste neighbours. As a class they are notoriously poor cultivators, but have as a rule large holdings, which they cultivate carelessly, leaving most of the work to low caste hired labourers. In most cases the Brahman is far less skilled in the science of husbandry than the Ahir or Kurmi, and pays but little regard to the adaptability of certain soils to certain staples, the capability of the soil under varying conditions, and the rotation of crops. The great majority of the *birtias* in this district are Brahmans, while many of them, and especially in pargana Gonda, hold leases of villages from the taluqdars at favourable rates. They almost monopolize the local grain trade and money-lending business, a profession which led to the rise of the celebrated Pande family. These Sarwaria Brahmans are more strict in their religious life than the Kanaujias of southern Oudh, refraining from flesh, spirits, and tobacco, as well as refusing to handle a plough or touch manure. As a caste Brahmans hold a larger proportion of the district in proprietary right than any others save the Rajputs. Brahmans.

Next in point of numbers come Ahirs, with 140,168 persons or 11·78 per cent. of the Hindu population. More than half of them belong to the Utraula tahsil, but they exceed 36,000 in Tarabganj and 25,000 in Gonda. In the north of the district they predominate over every other caste, owing, no doubt, to the Ahirs.

large areas of pasture land, as in addition to field work they tend the great herds of *tarai* cattle. The Ahirs, almost all of whom belong to the Gwalbans sub-division, are good cultivators and, though not perhaps in the first rank, are careful and laborious husbandmen. Although more numerous in Gonda than in any other part of Oudh, they own no land in this district.

Koris. The third place is taken by the Koris, of whom there were 126,386 persons in 1901, or 10·62 per cent. of the Hindus, a far higher figure than in any other district of the United Provinces. By profession they are weavers, and large numbers of them are still so engaged, although more commonly they are found as agricultural labourers, many of them being *sáwaks* or practically the slaves of their employers. They are evenly distributed throughout the district, but are more numerous in the Gonda pargana than elsewhere. As cultivators they are hardworking and pay high rents.

Kurmis. The Kurmis, who numbered 104,590 souls or 8·79 per cent. of the Hindu inhabitants, are mainly found in Utraula tahsil, though there are large numbers of them in Gonda. Those in the north belong mainly to the Gujrati sub-division, while those in the southern parganas are mainly Khurasias, called after the parent village of the Kalhans rajas. They are among the best cultivators of the district, and, though their holdings are large, their husbandry is very careful and of a high order. They own four villages in pargana Gonda and two in the Utraula tahsil, while they also hold several as lessees. Their numbers are only exceeded in Bara Banki and Partabgarh of all the districts of Oudh.

Rajputs. The census returns showed a total of 55,429 Rajputs, aggregating 4·66 per cent. of the Hindu population. The majority of them reside in the Tarabganj tahsil, in which they have always been predominant. These Rajputs belong to many different clans. The most numerous are the Bisens with 17,747, and the Kalhans with 12,617, representatives, figures which are exceeded in no other district of the United Provinces. This is only natural, as they held in succession the proprietary right of the greater portion of the district. Of the Janwars, who own such extensive estates, there were only 210. Other strong clans are

the Chauhans, with 7,798 souls, mainly in the Tarabganj tahsil, but including those of Tulsipur who came from the hills, and for long were not considered of true Chhattri descent; Bais, 3,847, chiefly in Tarabganj and Gonda; Sombansis, 2,793, again almost all in Tarabganj; and Surajbansis, 1,614, in the same tahsil and Utraula. Besides these, there are large numbers of Bandhalgotis, who have long been settled in Nawabganj and Mankapur, Panwars, Gautams, Raikwars, Bhale Sultans, Raghubansis, and Solankhis; the last are not found in any strength elsewhere in Oudh, and here belong to the Utraula tahsil. The history of the chief clans will be given in the account of the several Rajput taluqas. The Rajputs hold a large proportion of the land as tenants, but they are no better cultivators than the Brahmans; their holdings are very large, averaging 6·58 acres as against a district average of 3·42 at the last settlement, and their rents are lower than those paid by any other caste.

Other Hindu castes.

Few of the other Hindu castes call for any special comment or are in any way peculiar to the district. The best represented are Kahars, numbering 49,091 persons, and belonging mainly to the Gonda tahsil; a large proportion of them are Gharuks and have a widespread reputation as domestic servants. Next come Muraos, with 47,228, a high figure; they are found in all parts and are the best cultivators in the district, paying the highest rents, and confining their attention to opium and the more valuable crops. Chamars numbered 41,397 and Pasis 37,068, the former chiefly in Gonda and the latter in Utraula. There were 32,328 Banias, the majority of whom are of the Kasaundhan subdivision, these only occurring in greater numbers in Gorakhpur; the rest were for the most part Kandus, Agraharis, Agarwals, Baranwals, and Umars, the last being almost confined to the Tarabganj tahsil. Telis numbered 24,908; Lunias, 23,531; Barhais, 22,219; and Dhobis, 21,548, the proportion in each case being unusually high. In addition to these the castes with over 10,000 members apiece were Kumhars, Kayasths, Nais, Faqirs, Kalwars, Barais, Bharbhunjas, Gadariyas, Lohars, Bhars, Kewats, and Khatiks. All of these are very numerous as compared with the other districts. The Bhars, who represent the old aboriginal tribes, are mainly found in the Utraula tahsil; they are a timid

race, preferring the jungle to the open plain. The Kewats, who are only more numerous in Fyzabad, occur chiefly in Tarabganj and Utraula; they frequent the banks of streams, and gain a precarious livelihood as fishers and ferrymen and by the manufacture of rush mats. The Khatiks take the place of the Pasis in other districts, being much addicted to thieving, and are commonly employed as village chaukidars.

Goshains. Among the Faqirs are included the Goshains, who are people of some importance. They are followers of Shankaracharya and are divided into ten classes, of which the most common are those known as the Gir, Puri, Bharthi, and Ban. These are again sub-divided into those who have adopted a worldly life and marry, and those who observe the vows of their order. The latter are strict celibates and live in small *maths* or monasteries; and in order to secure the observance of their rules they always travel in pairs. The Goshains are held in high estimation, and all castes will drink water from their vessels, although their ranks are recruited from all save the very lowest orders of society. They do not burn their dead, but bury them in a sitting posture, after covering them with salt. The Goshains are great traders, and many of them have acquired much wealth; in former days they monopolized the trade in jewels, gold, spices, and drugs from the hills. Their enforced celibacy admits of the accumulation of riches and prevents the dispersion of their possessions amongst increasing numbers of co-sharers. Among the chief Goshains are the Bharthi mahant of Itara, and the Ban mahant of Srinagar, in pargana Gonda.

Peculiar castes. One or two of the less common castes are to some extent peculiar to Gonda. Dharhis, Lodhs, Baris, and Sonars had over 6,000 representatives apiece in 1901. The first are far more numerous in Gonda than in any other district of the United Provinces, and are mainly confined to the Utraula tahsil. They are closely allied to the Doms, and stand very low in the social scale, being singers and beggars by profession. There are many other representatives of the gipsy races, such as Doms, Nats, Kanjars, Qalandars, and Siyar-khawas, who frequent the jungle tracts, but are not nearly so numerous as in old days before annexation. The Chais or Chains numbered 4,276 souls, a

figure only exceeded in Bahraich; they are allied to the Mallahs, and resemble the Kewats; so, too, do the Sorahiyas, of whom there were 278; they are only found elsewhere in the Gorakhpur division. The number of Goriyas was 3,006, and this was only surpassed in Fyzabad of all the Oudh districts; they occur in all parts, but chiefly in Tarabganj and, like the foregoing, are a sub-division of Mallahs.

Two tribes remain to be separately mentioned, the Barwars and the Tharus. The latter numbered 1,460 souls and are confined almost entirely to the Tulsipur pargana. They are identical with the Tharus found in Nepal and the whole of the sub-Himalayan *tarai*, and appear to be almost the only race that can stand the deadly climate of that tract. They claim to be of Rajput descent, but their features bewray a Mongolian origin. They are a jungle tribe, living in houses built of grass or wattle and eschewing mud walls; in character they are honest, brave, great hunters, and good cultivators, their favourite crop being rice. As everywhere, the Tharus are highly superstitious and much under the influence of their priests; their disputes are settled by the tribal council, and at these gatherings, and on every possible occasion, they consume large quantities of liquor distilled from rice. The numbers of the Tharus have greatly declined of late years: at the first regular settlement there were said to be only 3,000 left, and since that time the total has constantly decreased on account of emigration to Nepal. In former days they held the whole *tarai*, till displaced by the Janwars of Balrampur and the hill Chauhans of Tulsipur. Tharus.

The Barwars enumerated in 1901 amounted to 2,218 persons out of 2,929 recorded for the whole of Oudh. They are a criminal tribe said to be of Kurmi origin and to have come from Basti some 200 years ago. Their distinguishing profession is theft, and for this purpose they scatter over the country, especially frequenting the great religious assemblages at Ajodhya, Allahabad, Benares, and Bahraich, while sometimes they are found as far afield as Jagannath or Bombay. Their depredations are always planned with great skill and are seldom detected; they frequently assume the disguise of a Brahman or Faqir. They have a peculiar thieves' jargon of their own, in this way Barwars.

following the example of all habitual criminals. Their spoils are divided systematically, special shares being set apart for the gods, the *sahwa* or leader of the gang, and the aged or infirm members of the sub-division. The Barwars have long been brought under the operation of the Criminal Tribes Act, but, though strict repression and a rigorous system of registration have undoubtedly been instrumental in decreasing the volume of crime, they have failed to eradicate the criminal instinct. They are all concentrated within a few villages of the Gonda and Mankapur parganas, and a special police station is maintained at Mankapur for their supervision. A considerable proportion of Barwars is constantly to be found among the residents of the Gonda jail, from which it is a point of honour not to attempt to escape.

Musalmans.

The great bulk of the Muhammadan population, amounting to over 61 per cent., belongs to the Utraula tahsil, and most of the remainder to Gonda, while in Tarabganj there were but 29,286 of this creed. Almost all the Musalmans in this district are Sunnis, and at the last census only 3,380 Shias were enumerated, a very low proportion. Large numbers of the Musalmans are descended from Hindu converts, as is usually to be found in Oudh, and, save in the case of the Utraula Pathans and a few others, the majority are either cultivators or weavers, or are employed in service. The census report shows that the district contains Musalmans of no fewer than 72 different castes or divisions, while in the case of 2,488 persons no caste was specified. Many of these are, indeed, of very little importance, for 28 had less than one hundred, and 19 others less than a thousand representatives apiece. Only a few call for any special mention, and one or two may be noted as being unusually numerous in comparison with the other districts of Oudh. Of the latter, however, many are to be found in equal or greater numbers in the neighbouring districts of the Gorakhpur division.

Rajputs.

The first place is taken by the converted Rajputs, of whom there were 40,848, or 19·13 per cent. of the whole Musalman population, an unusually high figure and only surpassed in Meerut of all the districts of the United Provinces. Over three-fourths of them reside in the Utraula tahsil, where their presence bears testimony to the former power of the Pathan rajas.

They are drawn from many clans, the chief being the Chauhan and Bais, while there are considerable numbers of Bisens, Panwars, Bhale Sultans, Gautams, and Kalhans. Few of them own any land, and the majority are tenants, occasionally possessing under-proprietary rights.

Sheikhs.

The Sheikhs are not very numerous in Gonda as compared with other districts, amounting to 22,512 souls, or 10·54 per cent. of the Musalmans. They are fairly evenly distributed and are nowhere of much importance. They belong mainly to the Siddiqi and Qurreshi sub-divisions, while there were 528 Usmanis, almost all in Utraula, a higher figure than elsewhere in Oudh. Pathans, on the other hand, numbered 22,335, or 10·46 per cent., and this was only exceeded in Bahraich and Lucknow. The Kakars of the Utraula house head the list with 4,356 representatives, a total only surpassed in Basti, and next come Yusufzais and Lodis, with a small sprinkling of others. Of the other higher castes, there were 4,241 Saiyids and 1,496 Mughals. The former are chiefly found in the Utraula tahsil and belong to no particular sub-division, the Jafaris being the most numerous. The same may be said of the Mughals, among whom no one clan predominates; the Chaghtais, of whom there were 219, are solely found in the Utraula tahsil.

Pathans.

Saiyids.

Julahas and Behnas.

The Julahas or weavers and the Behnas or cotton carders numbered 18,610 and 13,112 souls respectively, together comprising 14·85 per cent. of the Muhammadan population. The bulk of them belong to Utraula, but they are comparatively numerous in Gonda, though very scarce in Tarabganj. They still follow their ancestral occupation to a large extent, but many of them have betaken themselves to agriculture, and prove capable cultivators, being very careful and laborious.

Other castes.

The other principal castes include Faqirs, 14,409, a higher figure than elsewhere in Oudh; Nais or Hajjams, 12,182, only exceeded in Sitapur; Darzis, 8,838, and Telis, 7,153. After them come Gaddis, Barhais, Kunjras, Churihars, Dhobis, and Nats, all in numbers over 3,000: the Churihars, or glass bangle makers, are exceptionally numerous, and only occur in greater strength in Gorakhpur; the majority of them belong to the Gonda tahsil. The Nats, too, are more common in Gonda than in any

other Oudh district. The same remark applies to Dafalis, Malis, Tambolis, Mallahs, Mirasis or Doms, and Thatheras. Pankhiyas, of whom there were 937, are more numerous in Gonda than in any other part of the United Provinces; they are cultivators and poulterers by profession, and are almost invariably found in lowlying tracts. Baghbans, numbering 537, all in the Utraula tahsil, are only found elsewhere in Bahraich and Bareilly; as their name implies, they are gardeners and practically the same as Kabarias and Muraos. The returns also showed 35 Kamkars, a caste which is peculiar to this district and Bahraich, although they are generally considered to be identical with Kahars.

Occupations.

As is only to be expected in the absence of any large towns or important industries, the population of the district is mainly agricultural, and the bulk of the inhabitants derive their means of subsistence either directly or indirectly from the tillage of the land. According to the returns of the last census, the agricultural population numbered 902,369 persons or 64·3 per cent. of the inhabitants. This includes landholders, tenants, and labourers, as well as those employed under the Forest department, but excludes 27,206 persons recorded as partially agriculturist, who depend on cultivation in addition to some other means of support. The proportion of the agricultural population to the whole is low as compared with the other rural districts of Oudh and very much lower than in Bahraich. The reason for this appears to some extent from the other statistics of occupation. Stock breeding and dealing afforded support to 26,445 persons or 1·9 per cent., and this is a higher figure than in any other Oudh district, and is only exceeded in Mirzapur, Bijnor, and the great breeding districts of the Meerut division. The industrial population numbered 176,413 souls or 12·6 per cent., which is again above the provincial average: the class is a very large one, and consists mainly of persons engaged in the supply of food and drink, 72,809; textile fabrics and dress, 35,387; workers in wood, cane, leaves, and the like, 17,036; in glass, earthen, and stone ware, 12,501; in metals and precious stones, 12,163; and in leather, 7,289. Next in order comes general labour, other than agricultural, with 135,111 persons or 9·6 per cent. Then personal and domestic service with 5 per

cent., including indoor servants, barbers, washermen, and so forth. The commercial population numbered ·7 per cent., and 2 per cent. came under the head of transport and storage; the former, which is a fairly high proportion, is chiefly made up of bankers and money-lenders, the rest being dealers in corn, timber, and other articles; the latter includes carters, boatmen, railway servants, and weighmen. The professional population, numbering ·6 per cent., covers a very wide field, from physicians and lawyers to religious mendicants, hunters, and dancers. There remain 1·2 per cent. employed in administration, including Government officials, police, patwaris, and village servants, and 2·1 per cent. independent of any occupation; in the latter class persons of private means and pensioners are lumped together with prisoners and mendicants. The last are unusually numerous in this district, especially in the Utraula tahsil, amounting in all to 26,288, a figure which is only exceeded in Meerut of all the districts of the United Provinces. The totals in each case include dependents as well as actual workers.

Language.

The common speech of the people is a form of eastern Hindi, known as the Awadhi dialect and spoken by the mass of the population of Oudh. This was found at the time of the last census to be the tongue of no less than 99·6 per cent. of the inhabitants of Gonda. Of the rest, 4,499 persons spoke the Urdu or Hindustani form of western Hindi, which is chiefly confined to the educated Musalmans of Utraula. In the extreme north a few persons speak Gorkhali, the language of Nepal, but their numbers are very small, while the other dialects recorded were Bengali, Panjabi, and Gujarati, spoken by immigrants from distant parts. The Tharus in this district speak a broken form of the Bhojpuri dialect of Gorakhpur, while in the east the common tongue differs but little from the *sarwar-ki-boli* of the same division.

Literature.

The only indigenous literature is poetry, which takes the form of ballads in praise of deities and local heroes. Of the latter, the most popular are the *kharkhas* or lays of Raja Datt Singh of Gonda, and of Karimdad Khan, relating their victories over Alawal Khan of Bahraich and the Gargbansis of Fyzabad. The poets are Bhats by caste, and they wander from house to house in search of patronage. One or two Gonda worthies have

attained some measure of literary fame. Beni Madho Das of Paska was a disciple and companion of Tulsi Das, whose life he wrote in the form of a poem entitled the *Goshain Charitra.* Shib Arsela of Deotaha was a pupil of Shambhu Nath Misr of Asothar in Fatehpur, and wrote several works on composition; he was tutor to Thakur Jagat Singh, Bisen, of Deotaha, who wrote two treatises on rhetoric and poetry about 1770. Another was Madan Gopal Sukul, born in 1809, who attended the court of Arjun Singh of Balrampur. The late Maharaja Sir Drigbijai of Balrampur was a noted patron of poets and literature, and collected a fine library of Sanskrit and Persian works. He started a printing press at Balrampur, which is still maintained by the estate. This was for many years the only press in the district; in 1897 the *Chashma-i-Hayat* Press was started at Gonda by Muhammad Hayat Khan of Fyzabad; the European Press followed in 1898, and the *Ram Bihar* Press a year later. There are no newspapers published in the district.

Proprietary tenures.

Gonda is essentially a country of great estates, and the bulk of the land is owned by a small body of taluqdars. The land tenures closely resemble those of the rest of Oudh, and the only peculiar feature is the number and variety of the subordinate proprietary rights. At the present time the district contains 2,835 villages, divided for revenue purposes into 4,064 mahals. Of the latter 2,159 are owned by taluqdars, including 431 held in sub-settlement, chiefly in the Mankapur pargana and the Tarabganj tahsil; 276 in single, and 677 in joint, zamindari tenure; 254 in perfect, and 335 in imperfect, pattidari; and 28 in bhaiyachara tenure. In addition to these there are 263 mahals in the possession of sub-settlement holders other than those in taluqdari estates; they lie for the most part in the Babhnipair pargana, the rest being mainly in the other parganas of the Utraula tahsil. Further, there are 49 villages held in fee-simple, the owners in many cases being taluqdars; these consist of the old jungle grants, which were sold outright by Government, as narrated in chapter I; nineteen mahals are Government property, chiefly in the Mahadewa and Nawabganj parganas, and the remaining four are *nazul,* these being of very small size and representing the sites of old forts and the like, occupied in

former days by Government officials, and after annexation declared crown property. Excluding the permanently settled area, which comprises practically the whole of the large parganas of Tulsipur and Balrampur, taluqdars own 61·83 per cent. of the district, while 6·49 per cent. is held by single zamindars, and 30·83 per cent. by coparcenary communities, the remaining ·85 per cent. being Government estates.

Proprietary castes.

Of the total number of revenue villages no less than 1,479 are at present held by Rajputs of various clans, the bulk of them being in the possession of Janwars, Kalhans, and Bisens, who together figure most prominently in the history of the district. Next to them come Brahmans, with 635 villages, mainly in the Gonda and Tarabganj tahsils, the principal proprietors of this caste being the Maharaja of Ajodhya and the Pande owners of Ramnagar and Singha Chanda. Musalmans have 381 villages, chiefly in the Utraula tahsil; and then come Kayasths with 129, and Banias with 115, villages, again in the same tahsil for the most part. Goshains own 34 villages, Nanakshahis 20, which form a single estate, and Bairagis twelve. Of the remainder, Kurmis hold six, Khattris and Muraos five each, Bhats four, Jats two, while Eurasians, Sonars, and Kalwars have one each, and the eighteen others are the property of Government. In this list no account is taken of fractional portions of villages, but the chief proprietors are given in each case. Bairagis and Goshains have a number of shares in villages other than those mentioned, while small areas are held by Sikhs, Kahars, Barhais, and Thatheras, but in most cases such properties are insignificant.

Taluqdars.

A list of all the taluqdars holding land in the district will be found in the appendix. The great majority are resident, the only important exceptions being the Maharaja of Ajodhya, Mahant Har Charan Das of Maswasi, and the Rajas of Bhinga and Bilehra. The total number of taluqdars is 25, and of these 16 are Rajputs, three are Brahmans, three Sikhs, and two Musalmans. Of the Rajputs eight are members of the Kalhans clan, the descendants of former rulers of the district; four are Janwars, three Bisens, and one a Gaur. The Brahmans include the Sakaldipi Maharaja of Ajodhya and the Pandes of the old Gonda family. The Sikhs are represented by the Raja-i-Rajgan of

Kapurthala and two members of the ex-royal family of Lahore: and of the Musalmans one is the Pathan Raja of Utraula, and the other the Khanzada Raja of Bilehra in Bara Banki, who has lately acquired half the old Bisen estate of Birwa. The history of each of these taluqas will now follow.

The Janwars.

The Janwars hold a far larger proportion of the land than any other clan of Rajputs. There are three Janwar taluqdars holding property in this district, amounting in all to nearly 800 villages, but nearly the whole of this belongs to the single estate of the Maharaja of Balrampur. The Janwars all claim descent from Bariar Sah, whose history is given in the Bahraich volume.* This man, according to the general tradition, was the son of Raja Mansukh Deo of Pawagarh in Gujarat, and came to Oudh with Firoz Shah in 1374. He was deputed to the task of clearing the country of the numerous robber bands which then infested Bahraich, and in reward obtained a large territory. The annals of the Balrampur house, however, state that Bariar Sah came at a somewhat earlier period, in 1268 A.D., during the reign of Balban. This may be the case, but the story is open to suspicion by reason of the fact that it would make the average duration of the rule of each of his fourteen successors no less than thirty-six years. At all events Bariar Sah took up his residence in Ikauna of Bahraich, and this remained the headquarters of the clan for six generations. Raja Ganga Singh, sixth in descent from Bariar Sah, had two sons, Madho Singh and Ganesh Sah. These divided their estate, the latter remaining in Ikauna, while Madho Singh went eastwards and carved out for himself a new property in the lands lying between the Rapti and Kuwana rivers. Madho Singh had two sons, Raja Kalyan Sah and Balram Das, of whom the latter founded the present town of Balrampur, which has since given its name to the pargana. The two brothers assisted by the Raja of Ikauna reduced in succession the chieftains of Mathura and Itror to the north of the Rapti, but it is not known to what families these persons belonged. Thus at this early period the Balrampur estate was of vast extent, stretching from Ikauna on the west to the territory of the Utraula Pathans on the east. It would appear, too, that the

* Gazetteer of Bahraich, page 122.

Janwars also held the lands south of the Kuwana as far as the Bisuhi. To the north lay the forests of Tulsipur, occupied by cultivating colonies of Kurmis, who had as yet not come under the dominion of the Chauhans from Nepal. Kalyan Sah was succeeded by Pran Chand, after whom came Tej Singh, Harbans Singh, and Chhattar Singh. In the latter half of the seventeenth century the Janwars came into conflict with the Pathans of Utraula under Pahar Khan, who held the country as far as Ikauna. Later the Bisen rajas of Gonda extended their possessions northwards and established themselves in the tract between the Bisuhi and Kuwana. Raja Chhattar Singh was succeeded by his son, Narain Singh, who resisted in two pitched battles, but without success, the first officials of the Oudh Government under Saadat Khan, a practice which was followed by his successors ever after till annexation. After Narain Singh came Raja Pirthipal Singh, who died in 1781. He left no son and was succeeded by Newal Singh, one of the most famous of the Balrampur chieftains. This man was the son of Kakulat Singh and grandson of Anup Singh, whose father, Fateh Singh, was the brother of Raja Narain Singh.

Newal Singh.

Raja Newal Singh is said to have fought the nazims on twenty-two occasions and, though often defeated, was never subdued, the revenue paid for his pargana being a little more than a tribute. In 1795 he was visited by another Raja Newal Singh, a Chauhan chieftain, who had been driven out of his territories in the hills by the Nepalese. With the assistance of the Balrampur raja he possessed himself of the eight forest tappas which make up the Tulsipur pargana, and in return promised a small annual tribute to his benefactor. Newal Singh had two sons, Bahadur Singh and Arjun Singh. The former spent most of his time in fighting first the Tulsipur raja, Dalel Singh, who had repudiated the engagement made by his father, and afterwards Ahmad Ali Khan, the nazim, by whom he was defeated and slain. Newal Singh reigned for thirty-six years and died in 1817, when he was succeeded by Raja Arjun Singh. The latter held Balrampur till his death in 1830; during his reign he was constantly in conflict with the revenue authorities, and on two occasions fought with his neighbour, the Bisen Raja of Bhinga. His son,

Raja Jai Naràin Singh, died without issue in 1836, and was succeeded by Drigbijai Singh, then a boy of eighteen.

Drigbijai Singh.

Raja Drigbijai Singh made his mark at an early date. At the beginning of his reign he attacked the Pathan raja of Utraula, Muhammad Khan, defeated him, burnt the town of Utraula, and carried off the Qurans of his rivals. He next sent a message to the raja of Tulsipur, demanding the zamindari dues which had been claimed by his predecessors. This demand resulted in an irregular warfare, which lasted for several years without any decisive results. The young raja was attacked on all sides by the old enemies of the family, and for a time found it necessary to take refuge with the raja of Bansi in Basti. On the way he was ambuscaded by one Nal Singh, an old agent of the estate, who had lately taken service with the Utraula raja, and escaped with great difficulty. His return to Balrampur was followed by a few years of peace, broken only by an engagement with the nazim, Shankar Sahai Pathak. Two years later, in 1842, Raja Darshan Singh obtained possession of the Gonda-Bahraich districts and at once marched to Balrampur. The raja was on a visit to Bansi and the garrison was taken by surprise. They were soon induced to surrender on a promise of security and passed over into a small island in the river; but as soon as Darshan Singh saw them collected together he opened fire upon them and killed more than one hundred persons. The rest fled, and Darshan Singh seized their property, amounting to about two lakhs of rupees. Drigbijai Singh was thus reduced to great distress, but his friend, the minister of Nepal, aided him with loans of money and gave him a house to reside in near Maharajganj in the Nepal territory, fifty-four miles from Balrampur, where Darshan Singh remained encamped. In September 1843 the latter marched on Maharajganj, which he reached in a single day, and attacked the house of the raja, who escaped with the loss of thirty men. Darshan Singh was nominally punished for his violation of Nepal territory, and the raja returned to Balrampur, where he resumed the engagement for the entire estate, which he held uninterruptedly till annexation. He again attacked the raja of Tulsipur, seizing the opportunity afforded by the latter's quarrel with his son. The dispute was compromised by the

payment of a small sum of money and the grant of a cluster of villages under the Tulsipur forest. One of these was Bankatwa, in which Drigbijai Singh built a small fort and which now contains a large bungalow. The last four or five years before annexation were employed in disputes with the raja of Utraula, resulting in the complete desolation of the villages on either side of the frontier.

The Balrampur estate.

The account of the Mutiny and loyal conduct displayed by Raja Drigbijai Singh will be dealt with in the general history of the district. In reward for his services he was granted the whole of the confiscated pargana of Tulsipur and large estates in Bahraich. Ten per cent. of the Government revenue on his ancestral property was remitted, and it was promised that the first regular settlement of his estates should be made in perpetuity. He also obtained the personal title of Maharaja Bahadur, while in 1866 he was created a Knight Commander of the Star of India, and in 1877 he was accorded the exceptional distinction of a salute of nine guns. Sir Drigbijai Singh was actively engaged in works of public utility and benevolence during the latter years of his life : he built and endowed the Balrampur hospital at Lucknow in 1869, the dispensary at Balrampur, the Lyall collegiate school, which was completed after his death, and opened a number of schools on his estate before the general introduction of village schools by Government. He was a keen sportsman, and a fall from an elephant hastened his death, which occurred in May 1882. He had no son and his estates passed to his widow, Maharani Indar Kunwar, who held the property till her death in June 1893. Ten years previously she had adopted as heir Udit Narain Singh under the name of Bhagwati Parshad Singh. He was the son of Bhaiya Gunman Singh and a relative of the late Maharaja, being descended from Fateh Singh, the son of Raja Chhattar Singh of Balrampur. From 1893 till the 19th of July 1900 the estate was under the management of the Court of Wards. On attaining his majority the young raja was placed on the *gaddi* by the Lieutenant-Governor and Chief Commissioner, and received the personal title of Maharaja. His estate, which is in a most flourishing condition and is admirably managed, is the largest in Oudh, and several important additions have been made

since the accession of the present Maharaja. He has a very extensive property in Bahraich, several villages in Lucknow, as well as valuable lands and houses in Lucknow itself, and a large portion, consisting of 27 villages, of the old Bachgoti taluqa of Patti Saifabad in Partabgarh, which has been recently purchased. In this district he holds on a permanent settlement the whole of pargana Tulsipur and all Balrampur except nine villages. In addition to these, there are the villages acquired at the sale of parts of the Singha Chanda and Ramnagar estates and others acquired from time to time. These comprise 116 villages and 17 mahals in pargana Gonda with an area of 65,175 acres, 17 villages and four mahals covering 7,577 acres in Sadullahnagar, one village and five grants of 7,328 acres in Utraula, and three mahals of 340 acres in Mahadewa. The whole is assessed at Rs. 5,14,772. The Maharaja also has possession of half the Birwa estate, of which an account will be given later.

Gangwal. The other Janwar taluqdars holding land in Gonda are non-resident. Their possessions here are very insignificant, the bulk of their estates lying in each case in Bahraich, and their family history has been given in the account of that district.* The first is Rani Itraj Kunwar, the widow of Raja Suraj Prakash Singh of Gangwal. He was descended from Partab Sah, a younger brother of Raja Chain Singh of Ikauna. The raja died in 1899, and the taluqa has since been managed by his widow. The property in this district is known as the Jairamjot estate and consists of the village of that name in the extreme west of pargana Paharapur and two small villages in pargana Gonda near the Bahraich border. The whole is assessed at Rs. 1,955.

Payagpur. The Raja of Payagpur owns in this district but the single village of Pair in pargana Babhnipair, assessed at Rs. 275. This was recently purchased from the Raja of Babhnipair at the sale of his estate. The present taluqdar is Raja Bindeshwari Parshad Singh, the son of Raja Bhup Indar Bikram Singh, C.I.E., who died in January 1905.

Mankapur. In spite of the disappearance of the great taluqa of Gonda on its confiscation in 1858, the Bisens still hold a considerable amount of land in this district, and there are five taluqas

* Gazetteer of Bahraich, page 81.

belonging to this clan, although one of them has practically ceased to exist within recent times. The chief of these estates is that of Mankapur, held by Raja Raghuraj Singh, who represents a younger branch of the great Gonda family. The Mankapur pargana was formerly held by a line of Bandhalgoti chieftains, of whom the last was Partab Singh, who died without issue during the reign of Raja Datt Singh of Gonda. The story goes that Partab Singh procured the murder of his Brahman agent owing to a suspected intrigue with his mother, Rani Bhagwani. The latter revenged herself by urging her younger son to kill his brother, and this he did; but, the rani being smitten with remorse, slew the murderer with her own hands, and then fled for refuge to the Raja of Gonda. Thereupon Raja Datt Singh seized the estate from the Bandhalgotis and installed his infant son, Azmat Singh, as raja. The property has since remained in the hands of the Bisens. After Azmat Singh came Gopal Singh, who was followed by Bahadur Singh and Bakht Singh. These men remained nominal masters of a large tract of country, but their power was greatly circumscribed by the nazims, who seldom permitted them to engage for the whole taluqa and usually settled the land with the village headmen. It was for this reason that the rajas used to avail themselves of the opportunity of asserting their unsubstantial sovereign rights by the frequent sales of *birts* and other privileges. The *sanad* for the taluqa was conferred on Raja Pirthipat Singh, son of Bakht Singh. He had not followed the example of his kinsmen of Gonda, but came in at an early date and rendered good service in the restoration of order. The estate, which was well administered during his lifetime, passed at his death in 1873 to his widow, Rani Saltanat Kunwar, who by her reckless expenditure plunged the estate into debt. She died in 1886, leaving encumbrances to the extent of over two lakhs. As she had nominated no heir, and as Narpat Singh, the raja's brother, had died without issue, the estate passed to the nearest male collateral, Bhaiya Jai Parkash Singh, the son of Kishan Singh, whose father, Jugraj Singh, was the younger son of Raja Gopal Singh. He only held the estate for a short time, as he died in July 1889 at the age of 72 years; but in the period of his management the debt was reduced by Rs. 40,000.

His son, Lal Raghuraj Singh, succeeded him, and in 1903 obtained recognition of the hereditary title of raja, which had been for several years in abeyance. He has not only cleared the estate of all encumbrances, but has added largely to his property. The Mankapur estate now consists of 143 villages and two mahals in pargana Mankapur with an area of 45,825 acres, 19 villages and ten mahals covering 5,800 acres in Nawabganj, and one mahal of 191 acres in Mahadewa. The whole is assessed to a revenue of Rs. 37,462. A very large proportion of the villages are either sub-settled or held by *birtias*, who pay to the raja twice the revenue less 10 per cent.

Bhinga. The second great Bisen taluqdar is the Raja of Bhinga in Bahraich, who also represents a younger branch of the family of Datt Singh of Gonda. The property was originally held by the Janwars of Ikauna, and in the course of time passed into the hands of Lalit Singh, the representative of a cadet branch of the Ikauna house. This man was unable to withstand the attacks of the Banjaras, who were then predominant between the Rapti and the hills. He subsequently applied for aid to his brother-in-law, Bhawani Singh, a younger brother of Raja Datt Singh. His strong hand soon restored order, but after expelling the Banjaras he retained possession of the estate for himself, and thenceforward the property remained in the hands of the Bisens. The subsequent history of this family has been given in the account of the Bahraich district.* The present owner is Raja Udai Partab Singh, C.S.I., but for some years he has retired from public life and since 1900 the management has been in the hands of his son, Surendra Bikram Singh. His property consists of some 90 villages in Bahraich, and in addition to this he holds 21 villages and portions of three others in pargana Gonda, two villages in Paharapur, and one village in Digsir. His lands in this district are assessed at Rs. 17,105 and go by the name of the Usraina estate.

Deotaha. A small taluqa is held by a younger branch of the Bhinga house. Raja Kishan Datt Singh had two other sons besides Raja Udai Partab Singh, named Jagdamba Partab Bahadur Singh and Rajendra Bahadur Singh. The former obtained as his

* Gazetteer of Bahraich, pages 82 and 133.

inheritance the estate of Deotaha, but this was confiscated after the Mutiny and given to Raja Ajit Singh, of Taraul in Partabgarh, on a revenue-free tenure for life. This decision was, however, reversed some time afterwards, as the old proprietor established his right in the civil courts, and the property was restored to the Bisens under a separate *sanad*. The taluqa is now held by Thakurain Jairaj Kunwar, the widow of Jagdamba Partab Bahadur. She holds in all seven villages and one mahal with an aggregate area of 6,010 acres assessed at Rs. 5,650. The property lies in the extreme north of pargana Gonda near the Kuwana river. It has greatly deteriorated in value of late years and much of the land is precarious.

The estate of Birwa or Mahnon has practically ceased to exist. The taluqa was an appanage of the Gonda house, and was founded by Bhaiya Pahlwan Singh, the younger son of Raja Udit Singh. This man had three sons, of whom the eldest, Duniapat Singh, died young, leaving two children, one of whom was adopted by Raja Jai Singh as his successor; the second was Hindupat Singh, who attempted to usurp his infant nephew's estate and was murdered by the Pandes with his whole family; and the third was Madho Singh, who obtained Mahnon. He was succeeded by his son, Sanuman Singh, who acquired a large estate during the time that Gonda was under the management of the nazims. When Raja Guman Singh died, he put forward a claim to the *raj* of Gonda, but eventually the choice fell upon Raja Debi Bakhsh Singh. Sanuman Singh died some years before annexation, and Mahnon descended to his son, Pirthipal Singh, who took a prominent part in the rebellion, for some time managing Gonda during the raja's absence in Lucknow, but surrendered in time to save his property. He died in November 1859 and was succeeded by his widow, Sarfaraz Kunwar, who held the taluqa, now known as Birwa, till her death in 1870, when it passed to her daughter, Thakurain Brijraj Kunwar. The latter died in February 1879; her husband, Lal Achal Ram, a Kachhwaha, survived her, but she left no children. Her death was the beginning of prolonged litigation which has ruined the estate. The first suit was brought by the Raja of Bhinga for possession on the ground of his descent from Raja Ram Singh: but it was

Birwa.

eventually decided in the Privy Council that there were nearer collaterals of Pirthipal Singh in the Raja of Bhinga's own line of descent, and that the latter had therefore no title. Before this decision was made Narendra Bahadur, one of these relatives, had obtained possession on the ground that his father, Har Bhagat Singh, was the nearest collateral, under the decree of the Judicial Commissioner; but when the suit of the Bhinga raja was dismissed, Achal Ram recovered the estate. Shortly afterwards Narendra Bahadur sold a half share of his right to the Raja of Bilehra, and in conjunction with him instituted a suit against Achal Ram. But in this case the Judicial Commissioner found that a still nearer collateral existed in the person of Jubraj Singh, and this finding was upheld by the Privy Council on the 3rd of January 1873. In the meantime, however, Ardawan Singh, son of Jubraj Singh, and the Raja of Bilehra had brought a fourth suit against Achal Ram. Ardawan Singh had already conveyed to the raja a half share of his rights for Rs. 1,50,000, and so the latter became a co-plaintiff in the suit. About the same time Ardawan Singh and Narendra Bahadur entered into an agreement that the successful plaintiff should give one-half of his share to the other; but on the 11th of December 1891 Ardawan Singh executed a deed renouncing his claim in favour of Achal Ram, and his name was struck off as a plaintiff. The case was consequently tried as between Raja Kazim Husain Khan and Achal Ram, and on the 7th of June 1899 the former obtained a decree in the Court of the Judicial Commissioner for one-half of the estate. After the institution of the joint suit of 1891 Achal Ram had borrowed three lakhs from Nawab Asghar Husain of Lucknow on the 11th of April 1891 and mortgaged the entire taluqa for a term of twenty years; he again borrowed Rs. 1,30,000 and Rs. 40,000 by supplementary bonds on the 8th of September and the 15th of December respectively. On the 12th of November 1894 the nawab obtained a decree for possession, and on the 17th of July 1900 he transferred his right as mortgagee to the Maharaja of Balrampur for five lakhs. Subsequently an agreement was made between Achal Ram and the Balrampur estate, under which the latter paid the expenses already incurred in conducting the appeal against the decree of

June 1899 and became responsible for future expenses, while the former agreed either to redeem the mortgage on payment of Rs. 6,75,000 or to sell it according to settled rates. In April 1905 the Raja of Bilehra won his suit on appeal to the Privy Council, so that Achal Ram's interest in the taluqa has vanished. The estate now consists in all of 67 villages and eight mahals, with an area of 26,238 acres, in pargana Gonda; eight villages, 3,765 acres in all, in Paharapur; three villages, covering 1,036 acres, in Digsir; two villages, comprising 1,639 acres in Guwarich; and one village of 345 acres in Nawabganj. The whole is assessed at Rs. 36,440.

The last Bisen taluqa is that of Majhgawan, held by a family which claim a distant connexion with the Rajas of Gonda. According to the family tradition, these Bisens are descended from the Rajas of Majhauli in Gorakhpur, their ancestor being Babu Bhupat Sah, a son of Raja Bhima Mal, who obtained as his share the estate of Rajapur Gaura, whence this branch is known as the Gauraha Bisens. Four generations later came Babu Kunjal Sah, who had five sons: two of these were Sahang Sah and Mahang Sah, who accompanied Rai Hom Mal, the founder of the Kalakankar estate, and Rai Partab Mal, the first Raja of Gonda, in the campaign against the rebellious Raja of Chanderi. Returning from the south, they came to Ajodhya and then in 1495 settled in this district. Partab Mal is said to have obtained the village of Gauhani from the Kalhans Raja of Khurasa, while the two brothers expelled the Bhars and other aboriginal tribes from the jungles of Mahadewa, calling their estate Rajapur Gaura after the name of the old family property. When the Kalhans rule terminated with the death of Achal Singh about the middle of the sixteenth century, Bhaiya Dalpat Sah, grandson of Mahang Sah, established an independent position in Mahadewa, though nominally subject to the authority of the Gonda rajas. Dalpat Sah was the son of Jamnibhan Sah and had two brothers—Ram Datt Sah, whose descendants reside in Bawaria, and Ram Sah, the ancestor of the Bisens of Lodhia Ghata. He himself lived at Nagwa, which was inherited by one of his sons, Bhikham Sah, while of the others Himmat Sah settled in Majhgawan and Girdhar Sah in Khiria. Himmat Sah,

Majhgawan.

again, had three sons—Ghazab Singh of Majhgawan, Tej Singh of Seharia, and Ajab Singh. Ghazab Singh was succeeded by Bakhtawar Singh, who entered the service of the Dehli emperor and rose to the position of bakhshi of the army. He obtained recognition of his right to the Majhgawan estate, which he left to his son, Bishan Singh, his widow becoming *sati*. Bhaiya Bishan Singh had four sons, of whom Bechan Singh succeeded to the estate, which passed to his son, Bhaiya Paltan Singh. The latter had four sons, Sitla Bakhsh Singh, Autar Singh, Sheoratan Singh, and Har Ratan Singh. The last distinguished himself during the Mutiny, being in command of the escort sent with the European officers by the Raja of Balrampur and accompanying Mr. Wingfield throughout the subsequent operations, especially in the matter of hunting down the scattered bands of dacoits who infested the jungles of this district. His fidelity was the more remarkable, as the Bisens almost without exception took an active part in the rebellion, and large numbers of the Gaurahas went to Lucknow to assist in the siege of the Residency. Har Ratan Singh was rewarded for his services by the grant of the confiscated estate of Ashraf Bakhsh Khan in Burhapara and Sadullahnagar, receiving at the Lucknow darbar of 1859 a *khilat* and a *sanad* for both his hereditary estates and those now conferred upon him. He increased his possessions by the purchase of several villages and grants, and improved his estate by the construction of bazars, wells, and temples. In May 1894 he received the personal title of raja, but three years later he died, at the age of 72. His friends and relatives erected in his memory a marble *chaura* on the spot where he was cremated, and this has been endowed with a hundred *bighas* of land in Majhgawan. The raja left no son, and was succeeded by his widow, Rani Hansraj Kunwar, who still holds the estate for her lifetime. The heirs to the property are the descendants of the raja's brothers. Sitla Bakhsh left two sons, Subhkaran Singh, now represented by his son, Bhairon Bakhsh Singh, and Balkaran Singh; Autar Singh had three sons, Sripat Bakhsh Singh, Ram Bahadur Singh, and Tej Bahadur Singh; and Sheoratan Singh left three sons, Mahipat Singh, whose son is Chhatarpal Singh, Raghu Pal Singh, and Awadh Pal Singh. After the raja's

death the representatives of Sitla Bakhsh brought a suit against the rani and the other heirs for possession of the whole estate, but in January 1901 a compromise was effected, whereby at the rani's death the property is to be divided into three equal and separate shares to be held independently by each of the three sets of heirs. The taluqa consists of one village and shares in seventeen others in Mahadewa covering 1,032 acres, twenty-two villages with an area of 13,581 acres in Burhapara, and one village of 945 acres in Sadullahnagar. The whole is assessed at Rs. 12,693.

Babhnipair.

The annals of the Kalhans rajas of Khurasa, who preceded the Bisens of Gonda, belong, like that of the Gonda Bisens, to the general history of the district and may be reserved for a later chapter. When Raja Achal Singh was overwhelmed in the inundation which carried away Khurasa, his widow escaped to Rasulpur in the Basti district, where she subsequently gave birth to a son, named Bharing or Bhing Sah, who in the course of time possessed himself of a small estate including Rasulpur Ghaus in Basti, and Babhnipair, Burhapara, and part of Mankapur in this district. He was not, however, strong enough to recover the lands held by his forefathers, nor could he resist the Utraula Pathans under Alawal Khan, who after a long struggle drove the Kalhans finally from Burhapara. He was succeeded by his son, Parasram Sah, and after him came Kirat Singh, Bahadur Singh, Salivahan Singh, and Madhukar Singh. The last quarrelled with his brother, Kharagraj Singh, and a division took place, the latter obtaining the Chaukhara estate in Basti as his share. Madhukar Singh left two sons, Raj Singh and Himmat Singh, who again divided the property, the former taking Rasulpur Ghaus with the title of raja and the latter Babhnipair. After Himmat Singh came Murat Singh and then Ram Singh, who had no son, and adopted Shuja Singh, son of Kesri Singh, the last Raja of Rasulpur, who was murdered by the Raja of Bansi. Shuja Singh thus became Raja of Babhnipair, and that pargana was transferred from Gorakhpur to Bahraich. He was succeeded by his eldest son, Abdhut Singh, who died in 1821 and was followed by his blind son, Raja Jai Singh. The latter had no children, and at his death, which occurred shortly before

annexation, his property descended to his nephew, Raja Indrajit Singh, son of Babu Sheopal Singh. This man only held the estate for a very short time, and after the Mutiny settlement was made with his widow, Rani Sarfaraz Kunwar, on behalf of her infant son, Raja Udai Narain Singh. The estates were taken under the Court of Wards in 1867, and the raja, who had been educated at the Canning College, received possession in 1873. During his tenure the estate became hopelessly encumbered, and soon, after his death practically all the property was sold. His son, Raja Lok Singh, retains but a single mahal assessed at Rs. 50, though five villages, paying Rs. 1,100, were transferred to the possession of his mother, Rani Jairaj Kunwar. The village of Pair was purchased by the Raja of Payagpur, while most of the other villages were bought by Babu Prag Narain, a Bania of Lucknow.

The Chhedwara.

Besides the direct line of Achal Singh there is another great family of Kalhans in this district, long celebrated as the Chhedwara or six houses of Guwarich. These Kalhans are all descended from Maharaj Singh, a son of Achal Singh, of Khurasa, who escaped from the destruction of that place. It is commonly alleged that he was illegitimate and only a natural brother of the founder of the Babhnipair house, but this fact is denied by the Kalhans themselves. Maharaj Singh, otherwise called Parasram Singh, settled in the village of Dehras in Guwarich, then a mere stretch of pasture land along the Ghagra. In the course of time he acquired a considerable estate, which was largely increased by his descendants. He was succeeded by his son, Kapur Singh, after whom came Than Singh. The latter had two wives, from the first of whom are descended the taluqdars of Paraspur and Ata, while from the second come those of Dhanawan, Shahpur, Paska, Mustafabad, and Kamiar. The family pedigree will be found in the appendix.

Paraspur.

The house of Paraspur was founded by Ram Singh, the eldest son of Than Singh. His son, Newal Singh, is said to have visited Dehli and to have obtained the title of raja from the sovereign. He was succeeded by Ranbir Singh and then by Dal Singh. The latter had four sons, of whom Raja Gaj Singh obtained Paraspur in 1680, Lal Sah founded the Ata

taluqa, Ganga Ram received Akohari, and the fourth died childless. The Akohari estate has disappeared, and Ganga Ram's descendants have dwindled into insignificance. After Gaj Singh came Kakulat Singh, who again had four sons, the eldest being Raja Sheo Singh of Paraspur. At this period the Kalhans were constantly at war with the Bisens of Gonda, and Raja Datt Singh extended his possessions as far as the Sarju; but the lost property was restored to the Raja of Paraspur on the occasion of his marriage with a daughter of the Gonda Raja Udit Singh. After Sheo Singh came Raja Drigpal Singh, and then Shiam Singh, Gopal Singh, and Daljit Singh, the latter being the eldest of four brothers. He, too, had four sons, of whom Raja Mahipat Singh succeeded to the estate. He is mentioned by Sleeman as being on good terms with the revenue authorities, and seems to have spent his days in comparative peace. He obtained the *sanad* for the estate, which he left to his son, Randhir Singh, in whose favour the title of raja was declared hereditary in 1877. Randhir Singh died in June 1878, and, having no son, was succeeded by his widow, Rani Janki Kunwar, who still holds the taluqa. The property is a valuable estate comprising twenty-seven villages and four mahals in pargana Guwarich with an area of 24,574 acres, seventeen mahals, in all 1,914 acres, in Mahadewa, and one village of 303 acres in Digsir. The whole is assessed at Rs. 33,471. The taluqa was for a short time under the Court of Wards, but is now managed by the rani herself; it is let out to contractors by villages or hamlets; leases are renewed on the basis of existing assets. The system, which was instituted by the late raja, tends to the concealment of the assets and requires more supervision than a lady in this country can give.

Lal Sah of Ata acquired a considerable estate, which was improved by his successors, Chhattar Singh and Dasrath Singh. Ata. Owing to the encroachments of the Bisens, however, they lost much of their land and never recovered it. The history of this family is uneventful. After Dasrath Singh came Ajit Singh, Mardan Singh, Amar Singh, and Bijai Singh. The last was succeeded by Sarnam Singh, who held Ata at the time of Sleeman's visit to Gonda and was said by the latter to be on

good terms with the local authorities. He lived to engage under the British Government, and was succeeded by his son, Sukhraj Singh. The present taluqdar is the latter's son, Babu Amresh Bahadur Singh, who holds a rich property of fourteen villages and three mahals, covering 10,837 acres and assessed at Rs. 14,085, all in pargana Guwarich. The heads of this family have always borne the title of Babu.

Dhanawan.

Dula Rai, the son of Than Singh by his second wife, was followed by Jamnibhan Singh, who had three sons, Prag Datt Singh, Kashi Das, and Basant Singh. The last obtained as his share the village of Kanjemau, but his descendants have fallen into obscurity. Kashi Das was the founder of the Paska and Kamiar estates, while Prag Datt received Shahpur and Dhanawan. He was succeeded by his son, Bir Singh, whose two sons, Sakat Singh and Anup Singh, divided the paternal inheritance. The former had no children, and therefore adopted as his successor to Dhanawan the younger son of his brother, named Deo Singh. The property remained in the hands of Deo Singh's direct descendants, and in the sixth generation came Duniapat Singh, who in 1827 managed to acquire a large share of the property of the Jarwal Saiyids in Bahraich through the influence of the nazim, Hadi Ali Khan. Duniapat Singh held Dhanawan for many years, but he lived in peace with the authorities and left his estate intact to his son, Jaskaran Singh. The latter was succeeded by Raghubir Singh, who engaged for the estate at the first regular settlement. He had two wives, and left a son by each—Jagmohan Singh, who succeeded to the taluqa, and Drigbijai Singh, whose widow is still alive. Thakur Jagmohan Singh died without a son, and his property passed to his elder widow, Thakurain Sarfaraz Kunwar, the present owner of Dhanawan. Her daughter is married to Thakur Jagannath Bakhsh Singh, the Bais taluqdar of Hasnapur in Rai Bareli. The property in this district comprises thirty villages and twelve mahals in pargana Guwarich, with an area of 21,858 acres, and three villages and two mahals, covering 1,261 acres, in Paharapur; the whole is assessed at Rs. 27,230. In the Bahraich district the Thakurain owns the Bhandiari estate of fifteen villages and three mahals in pargana Hisampur. She manages the taluqa herself and with

considerable success; it is in a very flourishing condition and has been cleared of a large legacy of debt.

Anup Singh left his estate of Shahpur to his elder son, Kesar Singh, from whom it has descended in an uninterrupted line to the present day. Nothing noteworthy occurred in connexion with the history of this taluqa till 1827, when Raghunath Singh, seventh in descent from Kesar Singh, acquired a number of villages in the Bahraich district from the dismembered estates of the Jarwal Saiyids, through the favour of the nazim, Hadi Ali Khan. He was succeeded by his son, Mirtunjai Bakhsh Singh, who is described by Sleeman as "a great ruffian" and always ready to resist the Government.* His fort at Shahpur mounted several guns, and he had a force of five or six hundred trained men, which he used to augment on occasions by levies from his relatives. His chief ally was Pirthipat Singh of Paska, and the two were a terror to the country-side. On one occasion they attacked the villages of Aili and Parsauli in Digsir, killed six persons, plundered all the houses, and destroyed the crops, merely because the zamindars of the two villages would not settle a boundary dispute in the way they proposed. Mirtunjai Bakhsh continued the policy of his father in Bahraich, and made forcible additions to his taluqa, sometimes murdering the Saiyid proprietors, at others compelling them to sign deeds of sale, or else outbidding them for the revenue, though he generally paid but a fraction of the sum promised. Mirtunjai Bakhsh lived to a good age, and engaged for the taluqa of Shahpur at the summary and regular settlements. He was succeeded by his son, Thakur Nageshwar Bakhsh Singh, the present taluqdar. The property is well managed and has increased in area. The portion in this district comprises twenty-six whole villages and sixteen mahals, covering 19,514 acres, in pargana Guwarich; three villages and one mahal, in all 818 acres, in Paharapur; and three small mahals of 195 acres in Nawabganj. The whole is assessed at Rs. 24,568. In addition to this, the taluqdar owns the Katka Marotha estate of 5,412 acres, consisting of eleven villages and six mahals, assessed at Rs. 8,980, in pargana Hisampur of Bahraich.

Shahpur.

* *Tour in Oude*, I, 27.

A first cousin of the taluqdar, Thakur Sheoratan Singh, the son of Bir Singh, the youngest brother of Thakur Mirtunjai Bakhsh Singh, owns a considerable estate of eight villages in Guwarich. These were obtained by his father as his share of the paternal inheritance. There were three other sons of Thakur Raghunath Singh, but they all died without issue.

Kamiar. The descendants of Kashi Das, the younger son of Dula Rai, now own the estates of Kamiar, Paska, and Mustafabad. The property remained undivided for some time, and was held by Bhagwant Rai and Darab Rai, the son and grandson of Kashi Das. Darab Rai, however, quarrelled with his younger brother, Jojhar Sah, who succeeded in acquiring as his share the Deoli estate, while Darab Rai's portion has since been absorbed by the younger line. Jojhar Sah was succeeded by Rudar Sah, whose two sons, Khayali Sah and Bir Sah, divided the property, the former taking Deoli and the latter Paska. The descendants of Khayali Sah flourished greatly and made large additions to their property. His son, Chait Rai, was one of the leaders of the Kalhans in the expedition of Alawal Khan against the Bisens of Gonda. His great-grandson, Sobhkaran Singh, followed the example of the other members of the clan, and through the favour of the revenue authorities seized a large portion of the Saiyid estate of Jarwal in Bahraich, and also established himself in Kamiar beyond the Ghagra in Bara Banki. He was succeeded by Sher Bahadur Singh, who continued the same aggressive policy, but always managed to remain on good terms with the authorities both before and after annexation. He obtained the *sanad* for the taluqa, and lived to engage at the regular settlement. He obtained in 1877 the personal title of Raja, but the hereditary title was not recognized by Government. He was succeeded in 1879 by his son Rachpal Singh, who died of small-pox in 1883, when the estate passed to his widow, Thakurain Ritraj Kunwar, the present owner of the property. She manages her estates herself, and they are in a prosperous condition, large additions having been made since the first regular settlement. The portion of the taluqa lying in this district is known as the Deoli estate, and comprises forty-one villages and ten mahals, with an area of 23,767 acres, in pargana Guwarich; one mahal of

50 acres in Paharapur; one jungle grant and one mahal in Utraula, covering 1,846 acres; one grant of 1,566 acres in Nawabganj, and one village of 246 acres in Burhapara. The whole is assessed at Rs. 26,780, while the jungle grants are held in fee-simple. In addition to these she owns the Kamiar estate in Bara Banki, consisting of seven villages, ten mahals, and one patti, paying Rs. 11,994; and the Barauli property of thirteen villages and three mahals in pargana Hisampur of Bahraich, with a Government demand of Rs. 12,680.

The history of the Paska branch has been more eventful, at any rate in more recent days. Seventh in descent from Bir Sah came Kirat Singh, whose story is told by Sir William Sleeman.* He had five sons, and shortly before his death made over his estates to the eldest, Drigpal Singh, giving the second, Pirthipat Singh, a small share for maintenance. Drigpal Singh and his father resided at Dhanauli on the south side at the Ghagra, opposite Paska, and Pirthipat Singh took up his abode at Bamhauri, where he collected a large gang of ruffians, with whose aid he indiscriminately plundered the country. The real owners of the estate kept on good terms with the officials, managed their villages well, and paid their revenue punctually. In 1836 Pirthipat seized a convoy of treasure going from Bahraich to Lucknow and possessed himself of Rs. 25,000. In 1840 he repeated the exploit and obtained Rs. 85,000. With these sums and the booty acquired elsewhere he built a strong fort at Bamhauri and increased his forces. In 1842 Kirat Singh died, and Drigpal Singh succeeded to the estate. Being required to pay Rs. 5,000 on his accession, he promised to provide the money and sent his eldest son, Dan Bahadur Singh, as a hostage to the nazim. Soon after Pirthipat attacked Dhanauli, seized Drigpal, his wife, and three remaining sons, and killed fifty-six persons. The wife and children were sent off in charge of one Baijnath, a zamindar of Kheoli on the banks of the Gumti. Drigpal Singh was tortured for three days in order to persuade him to relinquish his estate, but in vain; he was then murdered by Pirthipat with his own hands and thrown into the Ghagra. Thereupon Baijnath, disgusted with his friend, released the captives, who took shelter

Paska.

* *Tour in Oude*, I, 38.

with friends. Wajid Ali Khan, nazim of Bahraich, attacked Pirthipat, drove him out of Paska and Dhanauli, and installed Dan Bahadur Singh. Before a month had passed, however, his uncle drove him out again with the loss of ten men. Dan Bahadur again applied to the nazim, but the latter for a bribe of Rs. 10,000 recognized Pirthipat Singh as the heir. The dispossessed nephew thereupon seized a small fort in the Shahpur estate, but Pirthipat would not allow him to rest and expelled him, killing four of the fifteen adherents of Dan Bahadur. Soon after Pirthipat seized another Rs. 18,000 belonging to the state, and then the nazim sent a force and re-established Dan Bahadur in Paska, but not for long, as Raghubar Dayal, on his obtaining the *nizamat*, restored Pirthipat, who again held the taluqa in 1845. In April 1847 the tahsildar, Muhammad Hasan, seized first Bamhauri and then Dhanauli, and confined Pirthipat, and once more Paska was held by its rightful owner; but in the following November Incha Singh replaced the usurper, who continued on his course of plunder and defiance towards the authorities, seizing the lands of his neighbours in Bara Banki and ejecting the Saiyids from the remnants of their possessions round Jarwal in Bahraich. In March 1850 Pirthipat was attacked at Dhanauli by a regular force under Captain Weston, but on its approach fled to the house of a neighbouring Brahman; he was traced, and as he refused to surrender, was killed on the spot. His body was refused by the Kalhans, and was committed to the Ghagra at the very place where he had slain his brother. The forts of Bamhauri and Dhanauli were destroyed. Dan Bahadur Singh was not allowed to take possession of his estate; he died in poverty in 1850. Soon afterwards his brother, Naipal Singh, obtained the Paska taluqa and held it for many years. He died soon after the regular settlement, and his property has since been held by his widow, Thakurain Ikhlas Kunwar. Her estates comprise thirteen villages and portions of three others with an area of 22,244 acres in Guwarich, and one village and one mahal of 302 acres in Mahadewa. The whole is assessed at Rs. 16,175. Besides these, she owns the Aswa estate in Bara Banki, consisting of one mahal and two pattis, paying a revenue of Rs. 525.

Harbans Singh, the youngest brother of Drigpal Singh and Pirthipat, was allowed to engage for the Mustafabad estate in Bahraich, consisting of the lands seized from the Saiyids. His son, Indrajit Singh, obtained the *sanad* for his taluqa and died in 1879. He was succeeded by his widow, Thakurain Jaipal Kunwar, who has held the property ever since. It comprises four villages and twelve mahals in Hisampur of Bahraich, assessed at Rs. 6,480, and the small Chingiria estate of three villages, covering 994 acres, in pargana Guwarich in this district. They are situated in the richest portion of the pargana and are assessed at Rs. 1,870. Mustafabad.

The only other Rajput taluqdar holding land in this district is the owner of the Inchapur-Umri estate in Bahraich, who holds the single village of Simra in pargana Paharapur. The taluqa is of recent formation and only dates from 1841. In that year Sarabjit Singh, a Gaur Rajput, purchased several villages in pargana Hisampur, of Bahraich, as well as Simra in Gonda, from Mir Jafar Mahdi and other Saiyids, of Jarwal. He was succeeded by Thakur Nirman Singh, after whom came the present owner, Thakur Sitla Bakhsh Singh. His Bahraich property consists of five villages and four mahals paying a revenue of Rs. 7,630, while Simra is assessed at Rs. 420. Inchapur-Umri.

Brahman taluqdars hold a very large area in this district, chiefly owing to the exertions of the Sakaldipi rajas of Mahdauna in Fyzabad and the famous Pande family of Gonda. The history of the Mahdauna taluqa, now known as Ajodhya, has been given in the Fyzabad volume. The foundations of the estate acquired in this district were laid by Raja Darshan Singh, who held charge of Gonda in 1838, but only for a year; he returned in 1842, but was recalled two years later in consequence of his raid into Nepal in pursuit of the Raja of Balrampur. He had already acquired several villages, on which he had imposed revenues too heavy for the proprietors to pay and had then taken them under his own management. His brother, Incha Singh, and his sons, Raghubar Dayal and Man Singh, held control of the district for short periods. The manner in which they obtained property is illustrated by their proceedings in Digsir, as is narrated in the article on that pargana. The forced and Ajodhya.

fictitious sales of property were afterwards recognized as genuine transactions, and Maharaja Man Singh thus acquired the proprietary right. The same thing happened in Guwarich and Nawabganj, a large estate being obtained at absolutely no expense whatever. It was not till after the Mutiny, however, that the property of Maharaja Man Singh in this district assumed its present proportions. He then obtained the grant of the whole confiscated taluqa of Gonda or Bishambarpur, which had been seized by Government on account of the persistent rebellion of the Bisen raja. He thus became one of the largest landowners in the district, and during his lifetime this immense property was excellently managed. Maharaja Sir Man Singh died in 1870, and as he left no son, his property passed to his widow, Maharani Subhao Kunwar, and the estate was taken under the management of the Court of Wards. In 1875 the Maharani recognized as her heir Lal Triloki Nath Singh, the nephew of Maharaja Man Singh; but the will was declared invalid and he was ousted after protracted litigation, which terminated by a decision of the Privy Council in favour of the present Maharaja, Sir Partab Narain Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E., who is the son of Man Singh's daughter. This decision did not take effect till January 1885, and during the five preceding years the property changed hands on more than one occasion and for a short time was administered by a receiver. The estate, which is very heavily encumbered, chiefly owing to mismanagement and litigation, but partly also to the number of under-proprietary rights and the prevalence of high caste tenants, covers an area of nearly 200,000 acres, and comprises 246 whole villages and thirty-seven mahals in seven parganas of the district. The bulk of it lies in pargana Gonda, in which the Maharaja owns 144 villages and twenty mahals, covering 94,972 acres. In pargana Digsir he holds thirty-nine villages and three mahals, with an area of 52,604 acres; in Nawabganj twenty-seven villages and two mahals, comprising 25,995 acres; in Paharapur sixteen villages and nine mahals—12,497 acres in all; ten villages and two mahals of 10,074 acres in Guwarich, nine villages of 3,260 acres in Mankapur, and one village and one mahal of 200 acres in Mahadewa. The whole is assessed at Rs. 2,09,822.

The Pandes.

The other Brahman taluqas belong to the celebrated family of the Gonda Pandes. These people are said to have come from Dehli and to have settled in Dhanuhi of pargana Ikauna in Bahraich. It is said that the fortunes of the family were made by money-lending, and that one Baldi Ram, son of Nawazi Ram, advanced large sums to Safdar Jang. In the days of Raja Sheo Parshad of Gonda the grandsons of Baldi Ram, Bhawan Datt Pande and Chain Ram, his cousin, came to Gonda. They were already possessed of great wealth and provided the raja with three lakhs wherewith to pay his revenue when on one occasion he was seized by the nazim and his estates attached. The raja was unable to repay the loan, and consequently gave up some villages to the Pandes, who henceforward remained in Gonda. To this nucleus their descendants made large additions, both by purchase and grant, and gradually formed one of the chief estates in the district. Their great wealth ensured the respect of the nazims, for without their assistance little of the revenue would ever have been paid. Bhawan Datt Ram, too, was a noted warrior and held a high position in the forces of the Gonda raja. On one occasion he attacked and defeated the zamindars of Singha Chanda, and obtained that village and several others on a rent-free tenure. Afterwards he fought on behalf of the Bisens with the Raja of Amorha, and for his success in this enterprise he received the large village of Retwagara. He had three sons, Mardan Ram, Kirpa Ram, and Bakhtawar Ram, who supported Raja Guman Singh in his dispute with his uncle, Hindupat Singh, and slew him and all his family. The brothers were arrested and sent to Lucknow, where they were sentenced to be blown away from guns; but influence was brought to bear and they were instead banished from Oudh. They went to Hyderabad, where a few years' service with the Nizam gained for them fame and riches, and in time they returned to Gonda, where through the favour of the raja they not only recovered their old possessions, but largely increased them. From 1814 to 1816 Mardan Ram managed the *jagir* of the Bahu Begam and gained considerable advantage from the appointment. Mardan Ram's two sons, Bhola Ram and Umrao Ram, died without issue: the latter was a man of mark, being a noted warrior and

administrator; in 1839 he was joint nazim of Gonda-Bahraich with Fida Ali Khan. He died in 1842 and was succeeded by Ram Datt Ram, son of Ram Kishan Ram, one of the four sons of Kirpa Ram. This man raised the influence and power of the family to its highest point: by his practice of standing security for the zamindars, he obtained mortgages on village after village, which thus passed into his possession, while the old proprietors were generally content to receive a liberal allotment of rent-free *sir* and to be free from the exactions of the revenue officials. The Pandes almost invariably treated their tenants and the ex-proprietors well, for their services were required whenever any fighting had to be done. Ram Datt Ram thus acquired a position of immense strength, for all the taluqdars of the district were dependent on him. He would settle disputes between his clients by force of arms, and on one occasion drove out the Raja of Tulsipur on behalf of the Raja of Balrampur, but afterwards allowed the former to return and himself assisted in restoring order in the estate. In 1849 Ram Datt held the two large estates of Singha Chanda and Akbarpur, paying a revenue of Rs. 1,66,745. In November 1850 the nazim, Muhammad Hasan, borrowed Rs. 80,000 from the Pande in order to pay his revenue; shortly afterwards the former came to Gonda and there he sent for Ram Datt Ram, whom he brutally murdered in his own tent. He then proceeded to plunder the estate of his victim and seized property estimated at ten or twelve lakhs. The murdered man's brother, Krishn Datt Ram, hearing of the outrage, collected his followers and attacked the nazim's forces, killed some forty or fifty of his men, and captured two guns. He then rescued his brother's body and had it burned with due ceremonies. The nazim of course sent his own report to Lucknow, with such success that he was highly rewarded for his services in removing so dangerous a character. Krishn Datt Ram had, however, obtained convincing proof of the truth from the Raja of Balrampur, who was present at the time, and the Resident interfered, with the result that the nazim was removed from office and Krishn Datt Ram restored to his estates; nevertheless he not only had to pay an increased revenue, but never recovered any of the plundered property. He afterwards obtained the title

of raja and was offered, but refused, the *nizamat;* he handed over the office to his agent, Lala Sadhan Lal, who held it from 1853 till annexation. Raja Krishn Datt Ram largely increased his estates, and acquired the property of Dulhapur Bankata and much land in Mahadewa and other parganas. During the Mutiny he took refuge in Ajodhya, but he was caught by his old enemy, Muhammad Hasan, and only allowed to escape after the payment of a heavy ransom.

Ramnagar.

After the Mutiny Raja Krishn Datt Ram engaged for the estate of Singha Chanda, which he held till his death. At the regular settlement it comprised no less than 221,822 acres, paying a revenue of Rs. 2,20,982. He had no sons and his property passed to the descendants of his murdered brother, Ram Datt Ram. The latter had three sons, but one died without issue, and the estate was divided between the survivors, Raja Ganesh Datt Ram and Shambhu Datt Ram, the former obtaining Ramnagar and the latter Singha Chanda. Ganesh Datt was succeeded by his eldest son, Tirbhuwan Datt Ram, who was dissatisfied with the division and claimed the whole estate. The usual ruinous litigation ensued and both taluqas became hopelessly encumbered. They were taken over by the Court of Wards, but in order to clear off the burdens extensive sales were made and most of the best villages were purchased by the Maharaja of Balrampur and others by Lala Damodar Das, of Azamgarh. The present taluqdar of Ramnagar is Harbhan Datt Ram, the adopted son of Tirbhuwan Datt. He resides at Dhanepur in pargana Gonda, but the estate is still under management. It comprises in all sixty-four villages and twenty-nine mahals, assessed at Rs. 55,494, and situated in almost every pargana of the district. In the Gonda tahsil the taluqdar owns twenty-five villages and eleven mahals, with an area of 19,931 acres in pargana Gonda, and nine villages and two mahals, 7,109 acres in all, in Paharapur. In the Tarabganj tahsil he has eight villages and one mahal in Digsir, comprising 7,247 acres; ten villages and eight mahals, altogether amounting to 8,088 acres, in Mahadewa; 3,312 acres, made up of two villages and seven mahals, in Nawabganj, and five villages of 3,196 acres in Guwarich. In the Utraula tahsil he owns two villages, covering 1,898 acres,

in Mankapur; one village of 347 acres in Sadullahnagar; one of 171 acres in Babhnipair, and one of 38 acres in Burhapara.

Singha Chanda. The Singha Chanda estate passed to Rajeshwari Datt Ram, the son of Shambhu Datt, and on his death without issue his widow, Ritraj Kunwar, succeeded him. She died in the beginning of 1905, and the succession has not yet been determined. The claimants are the taluqdar of Ramnagar; his cousin, Bhaiya Ambika Datt Ram, another grandson of Raja Ganesh Datt Ram; and the two widows of the latter's youngest son, Bhaiya Baldeo Datt Ram. The property has greatly diminished and now consists of fifty-nine villages and forty mahals, assessed at Rs. 67,107. In pargana Gonda there are thirteen villages and six mahals, with an area of 11,457 acres, and in Paharapur sixteen villages and two mahals, extending over 9,394 acres. The rest lies in the Tarabganj tahsil and comprises twelve villages and two mahals, 12,246 acres in all, in Digsir; eight villages and fourteen mahals, or 12,752 acres, in Mahadewa; six villages and fifteen mahals, covering 3,652 acres, in Nawabganj; and four villages and one mahal of 2,493 acres in Guwarich.

Akbarpur. The Akbarpur estate, which formed part of the taluqa of Ram Datt Ram and Krishn Datt Ram, was not included in the Singha Chanda taluqa, but settled with Har Narain, whose father, Bahadur Ram, was one of the four sons of Kirpa Ram and an uncle of the two great Pandes. He had acquired the village of Akbarpur by purchase from the Gonda raja and subsequently made considerable additions. Har Narain obtained the *sanad*, but died without issue, and his estate, which at the first regular settlement comprised 6,013 acres paying a revenue of Rs. 8,293, passed to his widow, Bhagwanta, who died in 1901. As she left no heir, the property was divided among the various members of the family and the taluqa has been broken up. Har Narain had four brothers, each of whom has several descendants living. The chief is Sital Parshad Pande of Bandauli, who resides at Banghosra. He owns five villages and four mahals in pargana Gonda, one village and one mahal in Digsir, one village and two mahals in Guwarich, and one village and one mahal in Paharapur. The whole is assessed at Rs. 9,778.

The remaining Hindu taluqdar is Mahant Har Charan Das, of Lucknow, and Maswasi in the Unao district. He is a Nanak-shahi faqir and the successor of Mahant Gur Narain Das, by whom the property was acquired by gift and purchase shortly before annexation. He left his estates by will to the present owner, who was then a minor, and the taluqa was for some years under the management of the Court of Wards. The Mahant holds a number of villages in Unao, Lucknow, Hardoi, Kheri, and Bahraich. His Gonda property is known as the Basantpur estate. It comprises twelve villages and eight mahals, with an area of 8,682 acres, in pargana Gonda; eight villages and four mahals, covering 5,890 acres, in Paharapur; two whole villages and one mahal of 2,623 acres in Nawabganj, and one small mahal of 20 acres in Guwarich. The whole is assessed at Rs. 19,365. Maswasi.

Portions of two of the Sikh taluqas lie in this district, but in neither case are they of any importance. The Raja-i-Rajgan of Kapurthala owns the small Parsauli estate of three villages, covering 585 acres, in pargana Guwarich and one mahal of 245 acres in Paharapur. These were obtained after the Mutiny and formed a portion of the large grant of confiscated land taken from the Baundi and Ikauna taluqas. The revenue paid is only Rs. 360, but this is due to the fact that most of the land is held on a permanent settlement, the revenue being only that of the second summary assessment. Kapurthala.

The other Sikh estate is that belonging to Rani Lachhman Kunwar and Sardar Jagjot Singh, members of the royal family of Lahore, whose predecessors, Sardar Fateh Singh and Jagat Singh, obtained a grant of twenty-six villages in Bahraich that were formerly included in the Chahlari estate and a few plots of land in and around Colonelganj in this district. The whole amounts to 578 acres, of which 355 acres belong to the rani and 223 acres to Sardar Jagjot Singh. The latter is revenue-free, and of the former only one-half, assessed at Rs. 750, pays revenue. Chahlari.

The only Musalman taluqdar holding land in the Gonda district is the Raja of Utraula, although, as has been already mentioned, the Khanzada Raja of Bilehra in Bara Banki has acquired possession of half the Bisen estate of Birwa. The Utraula.

were seldom allowed to collect the revenue of their estate. In 1804 Lutf Ali Khan succeeded his father, and was engaged for some time in fighting with Karimdad Khan, grandson of Mubarak Khan, who claimed his ancestral share of one-fifth of the estate. When his application was ignored, he proceeded to plunder and burn the villages, cut the crops, and render collection impossible. Though ultimately hunted down and slain in 1831, he managed to leave to his brother an estate of twelve villages, to which more were subsequently added. During this reign Utraula was invaded by the Surajbansis of Amorha and the Gargbansis of Fyzabad, but neither achieved any success and the latter were very heavily defeated. Lutf Ali Khan was succeeded in 1830 by his son, Muhammad Khan, whose rule was a period of constant disaster. He was defied by the Kayasth Chaudhris of Achalpur, and was, compelled to attack them and burn their fort; he was harassed by the descendants of Mubarak Khan, who continued to recover village after village of their old share; the zamindars of Itwa openly rebelled and shot his brother, Amir Ali Khan, who was sent to coerce them; and finally the Raja of Balrampur surprised Utraula in a night attack, burned it to the ground, and carried off the Raja's Quran. This broke his heart and he died in 1837, leaving his estate to his son, Umrao Ali Khan, who lived to see English rule after having spent eighteen years in border warfare with Balrampur.

In the Mutiny his son, Riasat Ali Khan, then a lad of twenty, took the lead and engaged for the whole pargana from the rebel Begam for Rs. 82,000, but half was remitted in return for his support and a large share of Balrampur was promised him. Umrao Ali Khan died in 1858 and his son received the *sanad* for the taluqa. He, too, died in 1865 and left no issue, but shortly after his death a posthumous son, Mumtaz Ali Khan, the present raja, was born and declared heir to the estate. The property was managed by the Court of Wards till 1886, when it was handed over to the owner, who married a daughter of the Raja of Nanpara in Bahraich. The estate consists of thirty-eight villages and three mahals in Utraula with an area of 17,101 acres; thirty villages and one mahal, covering 21,257 acres, in Sadullahnagar; four villages, 770 acres in all, in Burhapara; one

village of 1,467 acres in Mankapur, and one mahal of 1,972 acres in Gonda. The whole is assessed at Rs. 44,947. In addition to these, there are many zamindari villages in Utraula, covering 41,624 acres, which formerly belonged to the estate, but which are now independent save for the payment of a *malikana*, usually 10 per cent. of the revenue demand, to the raja. The origin of these peculiar rights will be shown in the article on pargana Utraula. They have caused great friction and litigation, and the whole estate has suffered much from the want of sympathy between the proprietor and the subordinate right-holders and tenants.

Zamindars. In addition to the taluqdari estates there are several properties of considerable size held by zamindars and coparcenary communities. Foremost among them is Munshi Prag Narain, of Lucknow, who purchased the bulk of the villages belonging to the Raja of Babhnipair and now holds ninety-four in that pargana at a revenue of Rs. 26,896. Another recent purchaser of land was Lala Damodar Das, of Azamgarh, who acquired eleven villages in pargana Gonda and eight in Mankapur from the sale of the Pande estates; they are now assessed at Rs. 9,490, and are held by Babu Moti Chand, who recently succeeded Damodar Das.

Bahlaya. Among the old zamindars are several members of the Utraula house. Sohrab Ali Khan of Bahlaya holds thirteen villages and parts of four others in Utraula, and six villages and eight mahals in Sadullahnagar, the whole being assessed at Rs. 10,412. He and his two brothers, Jamshed Ali Khan and Khurshed Ali Khan, are descended from Sipahdar Khan, great-grandson of Mubarak Khan, one of the five sons of Raja Salem Khan of Utraula.

Aelra. Sipahdar Khan had another son, Nijabat Khan, and from him is descended Amjad Ali Khan of Aelra, an estate consisting of thirteen villages and one mahal in pargana Utraula, and ten villages and one mahal in Sadullahnagar, the whole being assessed at Rs. 11,435.

Chamrupur. Another family of Pathans has been settled at Chamrupur in Utraula since the Musalman conquest, and is now represented by Mian Bakhsh Khan, who owns eighteen mahals assessed at

Rs. 2,493. Among other Muhammadan zamindars mention may be made of the Maliks of Itai Rampur in Utraula, the chief of whom is Malik Hayati, who holds two mahals in Utraula and five in Nawabganj, paying Rs. 3,169 as revenue; and the Musalman Bisens of Mahua in Utraula, of whom Muhammad Khan holds one village and six mahals in the Utraula pargana and one mahal in Burhapara, the whole being assessed at Rs. 1,607.

Achalpur. The Kayasths of Achalpur in Sadullahnagar are a well known family, who have long been settled in that part of the district. They obtained the title of Chaudhri, by which they are still distinctively known. The present head of the family is Chaudhri Uman Parshad, and his property consists of three mahals in Sadullahnagar and seventeen in Utraula, assessed at Rs. 1,723; but many other villages are in the hands of various relatives. The Pande family of Bandauli has already been mentioned on a previous page.

Bidianagar. The Bisens of Bidianagar in Mankapur still hold a considerable estate, comprising seven villages and seven mahals in pargana Mankapur and one mahal in Gonda, paying altogether a revenue of Rs. 5,838.

Umanpur. Lastly, mention may be made of the Bandhalgotis of Umanpur and other villages in Nawabganj. They are descended from the old Rajput settlers of the pargana, and have retained a small proportion of their ancestral estates. The head of the clan is Bindeshwari Bakhsh Singh of Umanpur, who has shares in fourteen villages assessed at Rs. 213. The Bandhalgotis once held the Mankapur pargana, but were displaced by the Gonda Bisens in the days of Raja Datt Singh.

Subordinate tenures. The number of subordinate tenures in this district is remarkably large, and in many cases they are of peculiar character. At the present time no fewer than 694 mahals are held in sub-settlement, and of these 431 are in taluqdari estates. In the Gonda tahsil there are fifty-six, all taluqdari; in Tarabganj 148, of which 117 are in taluqas; and in Utraula 490. Of the last 202 are in the Mankapur pargana and 168 in Babhnipair. These subordinate tenures, to which may be added a very great number of minor under-proprietary rights, were for the most part decreed at the first regular settlement on the strength of rights granted

by the rajas prior to annexation, though decrees for sub-settlement continued to be given after the settlement had closed, and others have been from time to time created by the proprietors themselves. In some instances such rights have disappeared, the sub-proprietors having been sold up and their lands merged in the *khalsa* holdings of the taluqdars. These tenures generally have their origin in the custom of granting or selling land in *birt* to families of high caste tenants. The most usual form was the *bai birt*, under which impecunious proprietors, usually rajas with very ill-defined rights, sold the full zamindari rights of the village. Another form, known as *birt jangal tarashi*, was a grant of waste made on the understanding that the *birtias* should have the right of holding the land reclaimed on favoured terms. The result of such grants depended on the power and position of the taluqdar. In the Pande estates they were almost wholly suppressed; while in Utraula, where the rajas were weak, the grantees acquired practical independence and obtained engagements at annexation; at the ensuing regular settlement they preserved their zamindari rights, with the peculiar limitation that a *malikana* of 10 per cent. was to be paid by them to the raja, although no means of realizing these dues were specified. The result has been a constant stream of litigation, which is ruining both parties. In Mankapur and Babhnipair the *birtias* were very numerous and strong; the settlement was made with them in 1856, but afterwards their villages were included in the taluqdars' *sanads*, and they were awarded under-proprietary rights on the terms known as *dahyak*, by which they pay twice the revenue *minus* an abatement of 10 per cent. These terms are very severe and operate adversely on the *birtias*, whether they hold the village at the rent fixed by the taluqdar or whether their right merely takes the form of cash *nankar* without reference to the land in their possession. There are several other kinds of *birt* in which the conditions are less stringent. Some are of great antiquity, such as the grant of land to Brahmans, known elsewhere as *shankalp*, and these have developed into full proprietary rights; while elsewhere in place of the *dahyak* the *haq chaharam* or one-fourth of the grain heap is to be found, this form being common in Utraula, Sadullahnagar,

and Burhapara. In the northern parganas the local chieftains retained their full rights till annexation, and consequently subordinate tenures are rare; they are unknown in Tulsipur, and in Balrampur only twenty-six mahals are sub-settled.

Other minor rights.

In addition to sub-settlements a number of minor under-proprietary rights were decreed at the first regular settlement. They refer to specific plots and are frequently of a very vague description, consisting sometimes of first refusal to a lease or undefined claims to considerate treatment. Others, again, deal with groves and *sayar*, and are similar to those found throughout Oudh. Many such rights have been created since the settlement, and at the last revision the difficulty occasioned by them was overcome as far as possible by persuading the landlords to commute them for occupancy rights of the ordinary nature.

Cultivating tenures.

At the last settlement 67·26 per cent. of the area assessed was held by ordinary tenants paying cash rents. Of the rest, 4·76 per cent. was grain-rented, 16·14 per cent. was cultivated by the proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 8·01 was in the hands of under-proprietors, and 1·67 per cent. of occupancy tenants, while the remaining 2·16 per cent. was held on nominal rents or rent-free. These figures do not include those for the permanently settled parganas of Balrampur and Tulsipur, which practically form a single estate; there grain rents still predominate, as the system has been found by practice to be more expedient, owing to the peculiar local conditions. In the rest of the district the grain rented area had decreased from 97,645 acres at the first settlement to 35,433, and, save for a few villages along the Bahraich border and the rice tract in the north of Utraula, the system has been superseded in favour of cash payments and is only maintained in land so precarious that no tenant will accept a cash rental for it. Of such a nature are the flooded lands near the Ghagra and villages in the neigbourhood of the Tikri and Kuwana forests, where the tenant reaps what the animals have left. The nominally-rented land includes not only that given free or at favoured rates to Brahmans or dependents, but also newly reclaimed land for which the landlord is at present receiving nothing. The *sir* and *khudkasht* holdings are mainly confined to coparcenary or sub-settled villages, in many of which the

greater part of the land is tilled by the zamindars themselves. A certain amount is cultivated by the taluqdars, but the proportion is generally insignificant.

The recorded cash rate at the last settlement was Rs. 4·5 per acre, and the accepted rate Rs. 4·29, the difference being mainly due to reductions made for the purposes of assessment on account of instability. This element had to be taken into consideration in dealing with the alluvial lands and the area affected by the forests. The average ranged from Rs. 4·38 in the Gonda tahsil to Rs. 4·44 in Tarabganj and Rs. 4·66 in Utraula. At the first regular settlement the figures were Rs. 4·02, Rs. 3·29, and Rs. 2·65 respectively; so that, on the whole, rents appear to have risen by 32·74 per cent., and, while the increase was but 8·96 in the Gonda tahsil, it was close upon the general average in Tarabganj, and no less than 78·49 per cent. in Utraula. The cause for this rise lies chiefly in the development of the more backward tracts, and its extent coincides closely with the increase of population. It should also be noted that rents have increased more rapidly in those parts in which the high caste element is less predominant. The difference between the rent rates of high and low caste tenants is now over 25 per cent., which closely approximates to the general Oudh average, while at the first settlement it was stated to be 20 per cent. It varies to a marked degree in different parts, being greatest where high castes are most numerous; for instance, it is 33·58 per cent. in Nawabganj and 27·3 per cent. in Digsir, while in Burhapara and Utraula it is only 6·63 and 9·69 per cent. respectively. The slower rate of increase of high caste tenants' rents is due partly to their more independent spirit, which leads them to resist demands for illegal enhancements, and partly to their resistance to any enhancement at all—a fact which renders the Brahman and Rajput tenants very difficult to manage, as they do not hesitate to meet coercion with violence. The average high caste rate at settlement was Rs. 3·8 per acre, paid by Brahmans, Rajputs, Kayasths, and the higher grades of Musalmans. That for low castes was Rs. 5·12, ranging from Rs. 4·88 in the case of Ahirs, Chamars, Gadariyas, and Lodhs to Rs. 5·05 for Kurmis and Rs. 6·21 for Muraos. The high castes hold 45·08 per cent. of the tenant area, but

Rents.

while the proportion amounts to 61·2 per cent. in Tarabganj and 52·16 in Gonda, it is only 17·52 per cent. in Utraula. The *tarhar* tract is preferred by Brahmans and Rajputs, for, being precluded from handling a plough and averse to the labour of irrigation, they are naturally attracted by a soil which requires little of either. The best cultivators prefer the stronger soils of the *uparhar*, where the outturn is greater, though more labour be involved. The same difference is to be seen in the size of the holdings, which averages 4·52 acres in the case of high caste tenants, and is as much as 6·58 for Rajputs, and only 2·85 acres in the case of the lower castes, who devote their energy to the close cultivation of a small area, which is most carefully prepared and irrigated. The Brahman is more slovenly, and his land rarely receives as much ploughing or watering, while frequently his fields are choked with weeds.

Grain rents.

In villages and lands held on grain rents the division of the produce is made either by *batai* or division of the garnered grain or by *kankut*, an appraisement of the standing crops before harvest. Under the latter system the landlord realizes his share in kind or else converts it into a money demand at the prevailing rates. In *batai* the method of division and the various dues and cesses differ in every part of the district; but the system followed is much the same as that described in the account of the Sitapur district. At each harvest certain of the village servants select one *biswa* from the fields of each tenant and take the produce for their own use; this right is generally enjoyed by the watchman, blacksmith, carpenter, the priest, and sometimes by the cultivator himself. When the crop is cut other deductions are made for the ploughman, reaper, and thresher, while other allowances go to the village servants. The remainder is divided into two equal heaps, one for the zamindar and the other for the cultivator. Other deductions are then made from the former, such as one *ser* in the maund for the cultivator himself, another *ser* for the patwari, and the *anjuri* or double handful for the priest. Small payments are similarly made to the same and a few of the village servants by the cultivator.

Condition of the people.

At the time of the first regular settlement the general condition of the people was said to be somewhat better than in the

more developed districts in Oudh, and the remark probably holds true at the present time. There are, no doubt, several exceptions to the rule. The under-proprietors are, as a body, generally indebted, the cause lying partly in the great increase in their numbers, leading to minute sub-division with the inevitable result of quarrels among a people who are by nature litigious. The single zamindars are for the most part in a prosperous condition, and the same may be said of the coparcenary bodies, with the exception of the Gauraha Bisens of Mahadewa, who through improvidence and lack of energy are always in debt and in arrears with their revenue; they have added to their difficulties by dividing their property into large complex mahals, which are an effective obstacle to good management. The estates of the smaller taluqdars are for the most part admirably administered and are in a flourishing condition, but several of the larger taluqas have suffered greatly through careless management, extravagant expenditure, and costly litigation. This has been especially the case with Birwa, Babhnipair, and the Pande estates of Singha Chanda and Ramnagar; while the large Ajodhya property has become heavily embarrassed from a disputed succession and subsequent lax management. Among the cultivating communities the lower and more energetic castes, such as Kurmis and Muraos, are the most prosperous, and some of them have managed to acquire small parcels of land; the Rajputs and Brahmans are frequently in debt owing to their inferior capacity as cultivators, combined with a more pretentious style of living than that of their humbler neighbours.

CHAPTER IV.

ADMINISTRATION AND REVENUE.

THE district forms part of the Fyzabad commissionership and is in the charge of a deputy commissioner. The sanctioned magisterial staff, which is rarely exceeded, consists of one covenanted assistant with full powers, three deputy collectors and a treasury officer, and three tahsildars. There is a bench of three third class honorary magistrates at Gonda and also at Balrampur for the trial of petty cases occurring within municipal limits. The Maharaja of Balrampur is an honorary magistrate of the second class, with jurisdiction over the whole of the Balrampur and Tulsipur parganas and in the police circles of Utraula, Srinagar, and Itiathok. The sessions judge of Gonda has jurisdiction throughout this district and Bahraich. The civil courts are those of the district judge, the subordinate judge, and the munsifs of Gonda, Utraula, and Tarabganj. The only honorary munsif is Bhaiya Sripat Singh, of Majhgawan, whose jurisdiction extends over pargana Mahadewa. The Village Courts Act has not yet been extended to this district. The remaining staff includes the deputy conservator of forests and his subordinates, the sub-deputy opium agent and his assistant, the superintendent of police, the civil surgeon and one assistant surgeon, the district surveyor, the post-master, and the head master of the high school. District staff.

The district has been but slightly altered in shape and area since annexation. At first it covered a somewhat larger area, as the northern boundary ran along the crest of the outermost range of hills, instead of following their foot as at present. The alteration was made by the treaty of January 7th, 1875, whereby the British Government handed over to the Nepalese Government the lower range of hills from Baghaura Tal to the Arrah river.* Shortly afterwards other slight modifications were made, Sub-divisions.

* Aitchison's Treaties, II, p. 192.

by which 32 villages of pargana Tulsipur, west of the Gandhela stream, were transferred to the Bahraich district, and a few villages were taken from the Ikauna pargana in the latter district and included in Balrampur. The number and names of the various parganas constituting this district have remained unchanged, and the only alterations in their areas were those already mentioned, save the fluctuations caused by the erratic action of the Ghagra in the south. Originally there were four tahsils, but after the first regular settlement the fourth, known as Balrampur and comprising the two parganas of Balrampur and Tulsipur, was abolished and the area was included in Utraula. Under the present arrangement there are three tahsils and thirteen parganas. The central or Gonda tahsil contains the two parganas of Gonda and Paharapur. The southern or Tarabganj tahsil, formerly known as Begamganj, is made up of the parganas of Guwarich, Digsir, Mahadewa, and Nawabganj; and the northern and eastern tahsil of Utraula consists of the seven parganas of Tulsipur, Balrampur, Utraula, Sadullahnagar, Mankapur, Burhapara, and Babhnipair. Each of these tahsils and parganas will be separately described; the tahsils form criminal and revenue sub-divisions, and are under the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff.

Fiscal history.

Prior to annexation the district was united with Bahraich and was under the management of a single revenue official, and it was not till the advent of British rule that Gonda became a separate charge. Its fiscal history dates properly from February 1856 only, and, though the revenue records of earlier days are singularly complete, the change in the system of administration caused a break of continuity, and their discussion belongs rather to the general history of the district.

Summary settlement.

The first assessment of the revenue under the present Government was, it is true, based on the figures for the last three years of Nawabi rule; but it was admittedly a makeshift and was only intended to be a temporary arrangement until the formal decision of claims could be taken in hand and a scientific settlement made on the lines of those which had been effected in the North-Western Provinces. At annexation the district was in a very backward state, owing to maladministration and the tyranny of Oudh officials. The condition of things, however, varied

greatly in different parts: Burhapara was almost entirely waste and Utraula little better; Tulsipur had been the scene of prolonged domestic strife; while the lands under the strong rule of the Gonda Bisens and the Rajas of Balrampur had remained almost untouched. Time was necessary for recovery, and a settlement for a long period was clearly impossible. The first summary assessment was made by Colonel Boileau, who proceeded to tour through the district from the time of his appointment as the first deputy commissioner of Gonda. The work was in some cases deputed to experienced native officials, as speed was the primary consideration. The settlement appears to have been concluded before Colonel Boileau's murder, but his work was destroyed soon after by the outbreak of the Mutiny. None of the records were preserved, as was fortunately the case in Fyzabad, and after the restoration of order the settlement had to be made afresh.

Second summary settlement.

The second summary assessment was completed in 1859, and the method employed was practically the same as before. The work was carried out by the deputy commissioner, and the old revenue records were used as far as they were available. The total demand for the district was Rs. 9,62,401, and the figures for each pargana will be found in the appendix.* The revenue was very light in its incidence, but this was unavoidable in the absence of a survey and the preparation of village records. The increase in cultivation and in the general prosperity of the district during the currency of this settlement was enormous, and it was soon recognized that the district would be able to pay with ease a very much higher figure.

First regular settlement.

The summary settlement was allowed to run on for a longer period than in most districts of Oudh owing, among several reasons, to the difficulty of undertaking the survey, consequent on the amount of work in process of completion elsewhere, though the generally backward state of the district was the main cause of delay in the imposition of an enhanced demand. The settlement began in October 1868, and in the following year Mr. Maconochie assessed the two parganas of the Gonda tahsil. In December 1869 Mr. W. C. Benett was sent to the

* Appendix, table IX.

district as assistant settlement officer and began the assessment of the Begamganj parganas. In the following October Captain Erskine assumed independent charge of the Utraula tahsil, but a year later he was succeeded by Mr. Maconochie, who had in the meantime completed Begamganj. The new revenue was declared immediately it had been fixed, but, though it was realized in 1873-74, final sanction was never given. The reason lay in the acute distress experienced in the district from 1870 to 1873. In the first two years the southern parganas suffered severely from murrain and floods, while in 1873-74 a partial famine visited the tract north of the Kuwana, and violent hail storms did great damage in the southern half of the district. It became evident that the new revenue could not be collected without ruining the landowners, and Mr. Maconochie, who was now deputy commissioner, obtained permission to submit his proposals, which had never been reported, to a thorough revision. This result was partly due to defects in the system originally adopted for arriving at the fair assets. For achieving this the settlement officer had employed four methods. In the first place, he corrected the village rent-rolls by the application of ascertained rates to the assumption area; but in so doing he failed to take into account the large proportion held by high caste tenants and on grain rents, as he applied the rents paid in cash by ordinary low caste cultivators to lands for which rents had to be assumed. Secondly, he deduced from the rent-rolls village soil rates on lands held by ordinary cultivators, and from these obtained average circle rates, which were applied to certain areas. In the third place, he fixed soil rates for each pargana, and applied a separate assumed rent rate to the area demarcated under each class of soil: and lastly, he framed a crop estimate by dividing the crops into classes according to the value of their produce, assuming separately for each kind of crop the value of that portion which was paid as rent, and applying this assumed value to the areas occupied by the several classes. In actual practice, however, Mr. Maconochie relied chiefly on an assumed general or current rate, which he applied to the whole area, and the actual condition of individual villages was not sufficiently considered. The result was a revenue of

Rs. 16,96,178, or nearly 76 per cent. greater than that of the summary assessment.

The revision was taken in hand by Mr. Maconochie in consultation with Captain Forbes as settlement officer and Mr. Capper, then Commissioner of Fyzabad. In December 1874 Captain Forbes became deputy commissioner, and his place was taken by Mr. Benett, who had been in charge of the encumbered estates, and thus had a minute knowledge of the conditions prevailing in a large portion of the district. The operations consisted of a complete re-settlement of Mahadewa, and elsewhere of summary reductions from the first assessment, determined by an examination of the rent-rolls. As was inevitable in a revision of this character, the principal relief was given to the smaller proprietors, who showed most signs of distress. The assessments on the villages of the larger proprietors often remained undoubtedly severe, and it was not till the growth of trade resulting from improved means of communication and the general rise of prices which commenced in 1886 that the actual assets of many villages rose to the level of those assumed for the purposes of assessment. Balrampur and Tulsipur were left untouched, and in many parganas the revised demand was made progressive and the enhancement spread over a period of ten years. The final report was written by Mr. Benett, and his proposals were confirmed in September 1875. The result of the revision was an ultimate revenue of Rs. 15,26,487, or nearly 60 per cent. in excess of the summary demand.* The percentage varied greatly in different parts, ranging from 36 in Digsir to no less than 321 in Burhapara, which had rapidly recovered from a state of almost complete desolation.

The revision.

Concurrently with the assessment a record of rights was prepared, and all conflicting claims with regard to land were decided by the settlement courts. The amount of litigation was very great, largely owing to the number of under-proprietary holdings, especially in the south of the district. The courts were open from 1868 to 1876, and during that time it was hardly possible to impose the new demand, as the taluqdars were unable to realize rents from their under-proprietors, who could not be compelled to pay any rent at all till the amount due had been

Judicial work.

* Vide Appendix, table IX.

judicially declared. In all, 23,627 claims were preferred, and though a large number never came up for trial, being withdrawn or decided out of court, no fewer than 18,927 were actually heard. The successful claims numbered 10,829, a very high proportion. Of these 2,235 referred to proprietary rights, forty-three villages being successfully claimed by taluqdars, who had omitted them from the lists submitted in 1859, while seventy-four passed from one zamindar to another, and forty-three were decreed to Government in the absence of good title on the part of any claimant, though the last were usually re-settled with the person whose claim appeared the best. There were 375 decrees for sub-settlement, 943 for under-proprietary right, and 1,108 for *birts*, while the rest chiefly concerned shares in villages, groves, and minor rights.

Working of the settlement.

During the currency of the settlement the revenue was collected with no more than the ordinary difficulties arising from refractory zamindars in unfavourable seasons. The severity of the assessment probably accelerated, if it was not primarily responsible for, the decay of several of the small proprietors, though the indebtedness of many of the taluqdars was mainly due to other causes. During the thirty years of its term the development of the district was considerable, but it was checked towards the end by bad seasons in the two southern tahsils, in which there was no great room for reclamation, as the existing cultivation was old and well established. In Utraula, on the other hand, development had been more rapid, owing to improved communications, the marked increase in population, and the disappearance of the jungle and forest. Assets had, however, risen everywhere, mainly by reason of the conversion of grain to cash rents and to the general rise of the rent rate resulting from increased pressure on the soil. In the Gonda and Tarabganj tahsils the cultivated area had actually fallen by 1,249 acres, but the recorded rent rate had risen by 20·77 per cent.; but as the recorded rents had formerly been rejected in favour of higher assumed rates, except in pargana Mahadewa, it was obvious that no great enhancement could be expected, save in the improved parganas of the Utraula tahsil, though even there a large proportion of the increase in cultivation was due to the development of

jungle grants held in fee-simple and consequently not assessable. The expiring demand was somewhat higher than that originally sanctioned, owing to the assessment to the extent of about forty or fifty thousand rupees of old *muafi* holdings, which had been declared revenue-free for a single lifetime.

The new settlement was almost wholly the work of Mr. H. R. C. Hailey, who assessed the entire area with the exception of pargana Guwarich, which was entrusted to Mr. J. S. Stevinson as assistant settlement officer. Operations began with a survey in 1897, and the assessments were completed in 1902. The cost of the settlement was very small as compared with that of many other districts, amounting to Rs. 69-10-0 per square mile of the area assessed, exclusive of the expenses of the survey; the average, too, was enhanced by the cost of preparing records in the permanently settled tracts of Balrampur and Tulsipur. The new revenue was sanctioned for a period of thirty years from the date of introduction in each pargana. The system followed was generally the same as that adopted for the rest of Oudh. No attestation of the village rent-rolls was found necessary, as the entries were generally correct; but the registers of proprietary rights had not been kept up properly and required revision. For the purposes of soil demarcation the conventional classification was adopted and this work was conducted by the settlement instead of the survey officials. Circles were arranged topographically and not according to recorded rent rates, as, though there was great diversity in the rates in adjoining pattidari and taluqdari villages, there was little difference in the competition rents paid by sub-tenants. In determining standard rates the settlement officer framed differential rates for the various classes of soils, based partly on the village rates and partly on an analysis of the recorded rents of selected villages in each circle, while a margin was left for short collections. Mr. Hailey also followed Mr Benett in adopting separate rates for high and low caste tenants, the difference in favour of the former being about 25 per cent. In dealing with the large assumption area, consisting of grain-rented land and proprietary cultivation, the usual method of valuation employed was the application of high caste rates, which were further reduced where circumstances seemed to

Second regular settlement.

require it. This reduction amounted to about 12·5 per cent. in the case of occupancy tenants and cultivating proprietors; while the extensive under-proprietary area was similarly treated, and in Digsir, where there had been distress, the rents hitherto paid were reduced.

The revenue. The accepted assets on the area under assessment amounted to Rs. 29,07,700. To this was added Rs. 26,411 on account of *siwai* income, chiefly derived from *mahua* trees. This amount was small, as the records showed large sums annually under the head of sale of wood, grazing dues, and the like; but an ample margin was purposely allowed for fluctuations. On the other hand, deductions to the extent of Rs. 40,020 were made for improvements by proprietors in the shape of wells constructed, hamlets established, and waste reclaimed. The net assets were thus reduced to Rs. 28,94,091. In fixing the revenue three deteriorated tracts were dealt with specially. In that adjoining the Tikri forest and in the villages on the high ground along the Kuwana the settlement was made for a short term or else on the basis of normal assets; in the third, which comprised the water-logged area between the Sarju and Terhi, substantial reductions were made in the revenue. The proportion of the assets taken as revenue was 46·71 per cent., ranging from 47·39 in the case of taluqdari to only 46 in other estates; the enhancement was 15·37 per cent. on the expiring revenue, and the demand fell with an incidence of Re. 1·83 per acre of the area assessed. The total gross revenue imposed was Rs. 17,70,189, but this is largely in excess of the amount actually payable. It includes the nominal assessment of Rs. 1,245 on permanently settled estates in Guwarich, Paharapur, and Mahadewa, belonging to the Raja-i-Rajgan of Kapurthala; and it also includes the demand fixed for the purpose of calculating cesses on revenue-free estates and jungle grants held in fee-simple. This amounts in all to Rs. 60,038, of which Rs. 46,408 is assessed on land in the Utraula tahsil, Rs. 9,987 in Tarabganj, and Rs. 3,643 in Gonda. This leaves a net realizable total of Rs. 17,08,906, including the revenue of the alluvial mahals and the permanent demand on the estates of the Maharaja of Balrampur.* The ordinary demand was made progressive where necessary, so as to mitigate the pressure of a large

* Appendix, table IX.

enhancement where such had been imposed. For the first five years the revenue was Rs. 12,21,183; in the second five years Rs. 12,32,371; and in the eleventh year the full figure is reached, giving Rs. 12,51,265 on ordinarily settled estates, Rs. 4,01,379 on the permanently settled Balrampur villages, of which the demand remained unchanged throughout, while the remaining Rs. 56,252 was assessed on the alluvial villages.

These last consist of a number of mahals, which are subject to alluvion or diluvion by reason of the action of the Ghagra and Rapti rivers. A considerable proportion of them, though borne on the alluvial register, were assessed for the full term of the settlement unconditionally, as they are the property of large taluqdars, such as the Maharajas of Ajodhya and Balrampur, and the owners agreed to a long term settlement for reasons of convenience. The fourteen Balrampur villages are, in fact, permanently settled at a revenue of Rs. 15,755. The others along the Rapti number 43, all in pargana Utraula, and were last assessed in 1902 for a period of five years at Rs. 18,873. In the Guwarich pargana there are 35 such mahals, 10 being assessed for the full term at Rs. 4,885, and 25 for five years in 1902-3 at Rs. 13,053. In Digsir there are 28, of which most belong to the Ajodhya estate, but only eight were settled for the whole period at Rs. 5,150, while the others, which are in the hands of under-proprietors, were assessed quinquennially in 1902-3 for Rs. 5,430. In Nawabganj similar conditions prevail, and 27 mahals were treated in the latter manner in 1902-3, the revenue being Rs. 3,141, and the remaining thirteen for the full term of thirty years at Rs. 5,345. Alluvial mahals.

In addition to the ordinary revenue demand the usual cesses are imposed which are in force throughout Oudh. These consisted in 1904 of the consolidated local rate of 7 per cent. of the gross revenue, introduced by Act V of 1894 in place of the old road and school funds of 1 per cent. each and the district dak and marginal cesses of ½ per cent. each, dating from the Mutiny, to which were added the 2½ per cent. local rate in 1871 and the 2 per cent. famine rate in 1878; the patwari rate of 3 per cent. imposed in 1889, and the chaukidari rate of 6 per cent. introduced with the last settlement in place of the old system of payment by *jagirs*. Cesses.

The total was thus 16 per cent. of the revenue, and in 1904 amounted to Rs. 3,09,122, though this was reduced in 1905 by the abolition of the famine rate. The cesses paid by the Balrampur estate are calculated from nominal jamas framed by the deputy commissioner in 1895; the estimated assets were 14½ lakhs, the actual revenue being about 4 lakhs.

Results of the assessment.

The settlement was admittedly moderate. No attempt was made, as had been the case in the previous assessment, to anticipate any rise in assets. The chief reasons for moderation lay in the unusually large area held in under-proprietary right and the embarrassment of many of the taluqdars, while the precarious condition of certain tracts was taken into full consideration. The result has been seen in the smooth working of the settlement and the general ease with which the revenue is collected. The term began with a series of prosperous years, and the number of coercive processes has exhibited a marked decline as compared with the average for the five years preceding the introduction of the new demand.

Police stations.

For the purposes of police administration the district is at present divided into seventeen circles with a station in each.* There have been considerable changes in the number and area of the circles during the past forty years, for in 1870 there were only nine police stations with an average area of about 300 square miles apiece. These stations were located at Gonda and Ayah in the headquarters tahsil; at Colonelganj, Begamganj, and Wazirganj in tahsil Tarabganj; and at Utraula, Balrampur, Tulsipur, and Rehra in tahsil Utraula. Among the earliest changes were the establishment of a new *thana* at Paraspur, the transfer of the station at Begamganj to Tarabganj, and that at Ayah to Itiathok on the main road. In 1874 the station at Birpur in pargana Babhnipair was built, and four years later another was added at Sadullahnagar. In 1880 the police arrangements were reorganized: new stations were established at Katra, Andhiari, and Pachperwa, while that at Rehra was moved to Srinagar. In the next year the Lalia *thana* came into existence, and in 1886 the present system was completed by the addition of a station at Nawabganj. There is one more police station in the district,

* Appendix, table II.

at Mankapur, but this is of a special character and the work of the force there maintained is confined to the supervision of the criminal tribe of Barwars.

Circles. Under the existing arrangement the circles of the various *thanas* are mainly artificial and were frequently formed without regard to the boundaries of the revenue and magisterial subdivisions. In the Gonda tahsil there are stations at Gonda, Itiathok, Srinagar, and Katra, but the jurisdiction of the Gonda *thana* extends over 207 villages of pargana Gonda, and also over 29 of Guwarich and 12 of Mahadewa; Srinagar and Itiathok belong wholly to pargana Gonda, and Katra comprises 92 villages of Gonda and 39 of Paharapur. On the other hand, the remaining 89 villages of the latter pargana belong to Colonelganj, while nine villages of Gonda are included in the Andhiari circle. In the Tarabganj tahsil the Tarabganj *thana* comprises all Digsir, 14 villages of Mahadewa, and nine of Guwarich; *thana* Paraspur is made up of 80 Guwarich villages, and the remaining 101 villages of that pargana are in the Colonelganj circle; the Wazirganj *thana* extends over 78 villages of Mahadewa and 36 of Nawabganj, the other 92 villages having been taken to form the Nawabganj circle. In the Utraula tahsil the Utraula *thana* consists of the whole pargana of that name and 44 villages of Balrampur; Birpur comprises all Babhnipair and 53 villages of Mankapur; Andhiari the rest of the latter pargana, 32 villages of Sadullahnagar, and 9 of Gonda; Sadullahnagar the remainder of the pargana so named and all Burhapara; the Balrampur *thana* includes 134 villages in the same pargana, south of the Rapti; Lalia 82 villages of Balrampur and 37 of Tulsipur; while the rest of the latter pargana is divided between the circles of Tulsipur and Pachperwa.

Police force. The force maintained in the district in 1904 is shown in the appendix.* The whole is under the control of the district superintendent, who is assisted by a reserve inspector and a visiting inspector. The regular civil police comprise 40 sub-inspectors, 36 head constables, and 266 men, including the reserve. In addition to these there is the armed police, consisting of one sub-inspector, 14 head constables, and 95 men; the

* Appendix, table XVII.

municipal police force of 91 men of all grades, maintained at Gonda, Balrampur, Utraula, and Nawabganj; the Act XX town police of 21 men; and the village and road chaukidars, amounting to 2,912 men. The road chaukidars, 26 men in all, patrol the roads from Nawabganj to Utraula and Chandradip ghat and from Utraula to Balrampur. The village chaukidars are now paid in cash in lieu of the old system of payment by *jagirs;* the latter was found to be very unsatisfactory, as they frequently failed to obtain a living wage, their remuneration in some cases taking the form of the produce of a few *mahua* trees, while prior to the introduction of the rural police rate they were the servants of the zamindars rather than of the Government. A few chaukidars are also maintained by the Forest department.

Crime.

Other tables given in the appendix show the statistics of criminal justice and cognizable crime for a series of years.* The chief forms of crime are those which are generally to be found in agricultural districts; there are no large cities, and consequently but few habitual criminals, with the exception of the Barwars, who come under a special category. They do not, as a rule, commit their depredations in this district, and those of them that are confined in the Gonda jail are suffering the penalty for absconding. The most prevalent offences are petty theft, burglary, and perhaps arson. Agrarian disputes are common in some parts of the district, and result in numerous cases of criminal trespass, while they not unfrequently result in grievous hurt or even loss of life. This is only to be expected in a district in which so large a proportion of the population consists of Brahmans, Rajputs, and Ahirs, all of whom are strongly imbued with a fighting spirit and are descended from men who rendered themselves famous in the annals of intestine warfare in Oudh. Organized crime in the shape of gang robberies and dacoities is comparatively rare; in fact, remarkably so for a district which contains so many natural places of refuge. The recent decline in the criminal returns appears due in large measure to the liberal application of the preventive sections of the Criminal Procedure Code.

Infanticide.

In former days the crime of infanticide was very common and the district bore an unenviable reputation for this practice.

*Appendix, tables VII and VIII.

After annexation strong pressure was brought to bear on the leading landowners with a view to its repression, and the crime has long since disappeared from the district. A special investigation was made by the police in 1868 with the object of ascertaining the state of affairs in the Rajput villages, and those in which the proportion of females seemed unduly low were again examined at the census; but in no case was sufficient evidence obtained to warrant the introduction of preventive measures. The proportionate number of females has steadily increased at each successive enumeration since 1869, and in 1901 the proportion was distinctly higher than in many other parts of Oudh, and well above the average for the United Provinces as a whole.

Jail.

The district jail is located at Gonda, to the south of the civil station and on the high bank of the river Terhi. The first jail was a temporary structure of mud, but this was replaced in 1866 by the existing building, which was constructed on the standard plan adopted for most of the smaller Oudh jails. The jail is, as usual, in the charge of the civil surgeon; it is of the second class, and in 1904 contained a daily average of 463 inmates, which is much above the average for Oudh. The death-rate for the same year was 25·9 per mille, as compared with 32·31 for the district, and in most years is considerably less.

Excise.

The system of excise administration in Gonda is somewhat different from that prevailing in other parts of Oudh, owing mainly to the conditions prevailing in the adjoining district of Basti. After annexation the right of manufacture and vend of liquor was farmed to a contractor, as elsewhere, and this method was followed till 1861, when the distillery system was generally introduced throughout Oudh. The original intention had been that a distillery should be started at each tahsil, but this plan was never followed here, as for a long time the only distillery was that at headquarters. On several occasions it was proposed to open a second distillery at Utraula, but the project was postponed, apparently on financial grounds, till 1882, when it was carried into effect. This Utraula distillery continued in existence till October 1894, when it was finally closed. In 1881 the introduction of the outstill system into Basti was

effected, in spite of the strong protests of the Gonda authorities on the ground of the difficulty in preventing smuggling from the stills near the border. The following year, however, a scheme was mooted with the object of introducing the outstill system into the eastern parganas in order to increase the excise revenue at the expense of the illicit traders; but after long discussion the matter was dropped till 1896, when the system was applied to the tract north of the Rapti. Proposals have recently been made to extend the distillery system to the banks of the Burhi Rapti, and even to abolish outstills altogether; and their total disappearance is probably a mere matter of time. There are at present twenty such stills in the Balrampur pargana and eighteen in Tulsipur. The Government distillery at Gonda is worked in the usual manner and contains thirteen stills. Statistics of excise administration since 1891 will be found in the appendix.* The income from liquor fluctuates from year to year according to the nature of the harvest, and the excess over the average, or the reverse, affords a fair indication of the character of the season. On the whole, there has been a distinct upward tendency since 1877, a year of famine, when the total was Rs. 34,000. Two years later it had nearly doubled, and from 1881 to 1890 the average was Rs. 92,885, the highest point being reached in 1886, when it amounted to Rs. 1,08,500. From 1891 to 1900 the seasons were for the most part indifferent or bad, and the average fell to Rs. 50,530, the lowest amount being Rs. 25,592 in the famine year of 1896-97, and the highest Rs. 72,000 in 1892-93. The revenue recovered at the close of the decade and has since risen steadily, in conjunction with a series of prosperous harvests. In 1903-4 the highest figure recorded was reached, the total being Rs. 1,12,841. These totals include the income from the outstill area, which rose from Rs. 2,169 in 1896-97, the year in which the system was introduced, to Rs. 12,186 in 1903-4. The number of shops licensed to sell spirit was 210 in the last year.

Tharu liquor.

The Tharus of the northern parganas consume large quantities of liquor distilled by themselves, mainly from rice and known as *dhanmadia*. The right of distillation was first acknowledged in a vernacular order of Sir Charles Wingfield, then

* Appendix, table XI.

Commissioner of Gonda-Bahraich, in 1856, whereby the Tharus were permitted to distil for their own use liquor from cooked rice and the shoots of the *sal* tree, provided they did not sell it or use *mahua* or *gur* in distillation. This privilege remained in force till the introduction of the outstill system in 1896, but the withdrawal met with strong opposition and the new rules were never actually put in force. It was found that the Tharus could not live in the malarious tract they inhabit without a plentiful supply of liquor, and they refused to accept the entirely different and vastly more expensive article from the outstills, threatening to leave the country if their ancient privileges were not restored. The threat was a powerful one, for without the Tharus there would be great difficulty in working the forests and much land would go out of cultivation; moreover, the tendency to migrate is already far too strong, as their decreasing numbers testify. Under the present regulations, introduced in January 1897, there is no danger to the revenue, for none, save possibly a Chamar, would touch the Tharu liquor.

The right to sell *tari*, the fermented juice of the toddy palm, is farmed to a contractor, but the income from this source is very small. For the three years ending in 1904 it amounted to Rs. 130 annually, but the average from 1891 to 1900 was only Rs. 36. This is chiefly due to the comparative absence of palm trees; there are hardly any *khajur* palms in the district, and consequently *sendhi* is unknown. Tari.

Hemp drugs are also farmed, and the contract is made under the existing system for three years, whereas formerly the right of vend was leased annually. The contractor has the right of collecting the spontaneous growth of the hemp plant and selling it in the form of *bhang*. Other forms extensively consumed are *gánja* and *charas;* the latter is sold to a far greater extent than in other parts of Oudh, the average amount from 1892 to 1904 being 146 *sers*, though *charas*, as usual, predominates, averaging 183 *sers* annually. The drug income has risen steadily; in 1877 it was but Rs. 600, while from 1881 to 1890 it averaged Rs. 3,315, and from 1891 to 1900 it again increased to Rs. 4,407 annually. Since the last year of the decade it has risen still further, and in 1903 reached Rs. 8,522, the highest figure on record. Drugs Drugs.

are very largely consumed throughout the district, and especially by the higher castes, who will not as a rule touch spirits. There are 45 shops licensed to sell hemp drugs, and this number has remained unchanged for the last ten years.

Opium. A sub-deputy opium agent, with either one or two assistants, has his headquarters at Gonda. The opium division consists of four sub-divisions, of which three, known as Gonda, Utraula, and Nawabganj, are in this district, while the Bahraich district constitutes a fourth. As already mentioned in chapter II, the amount of opium produced in Gonda is very large, averaging about 3,000 maunds ; and it is doubtless for this reason that the receipts from excise opium are small in comparison with the large Musalman population, as the cultivators are apt to keep back small amounts of crude opium for their own consumption. Opium is sold at each tahsil and also by non-official vendors at Gonda, Utraula, Colonelganj, Balrampur, Tulsipur, Raniganj, Nawabganj, and Khargupur. The income from opium has remained fairly constant of late years. From 1881 to 1890 the average was Rs. 3,554 annually, and during the following decade Rs. 3,558. Since 1900 it has risen somewhat, the highest figure being Rs. 4,916 in 1904. The average consumption since 1891 has been 9·27 maunds per annum.

Registration. The district judge holds the office of registrar for this district and Bahraich. He is assisted by five sub-registrars stationed at each of the tahsil headquarters and at Balrampur and Mankapur. There were formerly two other offices, at Colonelganj and Nawabganj, but the former was abolished in March 1901, and the latter in February of the following year. Prior to the constitution of the Oudh judgeships in 1891 the district officer held the post of registrar, and the tahsildars usually held office as sub-registrars ; but in that year the latter were replaced by departmental officers. The receipts under this head have steadily increased, especially in the direction of optional registration. In 1882 the total was Rs. 3,777, and this rose to Rs. 5,524 in 1892 and to Rs. 8,783 ten years later. The average receipts for the five years ending in 1903 were Rs. 8,371, and the expenditure for the same period was Rs. 4,937 annually.

A table given in the appendix shows the annual receipts from stamps for each year since 1890.* The returns, which call for little comment, show that the average is very high as compared with that of several of the adjoining districts, especially Bahraich and Bara Banki. The total has steadily risen, the highest point being reached in 1901-2, when the income from stamps was no less than Rs. 1,77,000. The average income from stamps of all kinds from 1890 to 1900 was Rs. 1,46,220 annually, while for the ensuing four years it was as much as Rs. 1,66,170. Of the total, an average of 74·7 per cent. was derived from judicial stamps, and in several years the receipts have been swelled by the sale of stamps of high value, a result of the constant litigation in which some of the large taluqas have been involved. Stamps.

The returns for income tax, both for the whole district and for each tahsil, will also be found in the appendix.† The total is not large and has been greatly reduced since the introduction of the rules exempting incomes of under Rs. 1,000. The average collections from 1890 to 1903 were Rs. 26,455, but the total fell to Rs. 19,500 in 1904, and the number of persons assessed on incomes under Rs. 2,000 dropped from 813 in 1903 to 190 in the following year. The Utraula tahsil is the richest, as the average amount of tax paid by those assessed at five pies is Rs. 247 as compared with Rs. 96 in Tarabganj and Rs. 91 in Utraula. The assessees are mainly grain dealers, money-lenders, and contractors in forest produce and other lines of business; a certain proportion is also paid by pleaders and small traders. Income tax.

A list will be found in the appendix showing all the post-offices at present maintained in the district, with their class and management. The history of the post-office dates from the restoration of order after the Mutiny, when the district dâk was first established. In its original form it was maintained solely for administrative convenience, and offices were only opened at the tahsils and the more important police stations. The mails were carried by the mounted police and were distributed by the village chaukidars, who had the right to levy a fee of half an anna for Post-office.

* Appendix, table XII.

† Appendix, tables XIII and XIV.

each letter delivered. This system was maintained with some slight modifications up till 1865, when a more comprehensive scheme was introduced throughout Oudh and a regular postal service instituted, the police being relieved of these duties. The number of offices was largely increased, and the district was divided into several postal circles with an office in each, to act as a local distributing and collecting centre. This scheme paved the way for the next progressive step in 1871, when the control of the post-office passed to the imperial authorities. As in other districts, however, the absorption of the district dâk was conducted gradually, and at the present time a number of offices still remain under local management. At that time there were five imperial lines served by runners in the district, leading from Gonda to Fyzabad, with a branch office at Wazirganj and Nawabganj; from Gonda to the branch office at Tarabganj; from Gonda to Colonelganj and Bahramghat; from Gonda to Balrampur, with a branch at Ayah, and from Gonda to Bahraich viâ Bangaon. There were district lines from Gonda to Paraspur, and to Intwa, Utraula, and Tulsipur, while a third ran from the Balrampur road to Khargupur, and a fourth from Colonelganj to Katra. Since 1871 the number of offices has been largely increased. Besides the head office at Gonda there are ten imperial sub-offices, from which the mails are distributed to the twenty-nine branch offices. Of the latter, ten are still under the management of the district authorities. The post is carried as far as possible by rail; but for those parts which lie beyond the reach of the railway, a service of runners, both imperial and district, is still maintained.

Municipalities.

There are now only two municipal towns in the district, Gonda itself and Balrampur, the former having been constituted a municipality on the 1st of July 1869, and the latter on the 30th of June 1871. The income in Gonda is derived chiefly from an octroi tax on imports, but at Balrampur this was replaced many years ago by a special tax on circumstances and property. The details of administration in each case will be found in the separate articles on the two towns, while the income and expenditure under the main heads for each year since 1891 are shown in the appendix. Formerly the number of municipalities

was larger. Nawabganj was so administered from the 23rd of November 1875 and Utraula from the 27th of April 1876, but both places were reduced to the status of notified areas under Act I of 1900 from the 1st of April 1904. They are now managed by a small local committee, and the income is derived mainly from a tax according to circumstances and property.

Act XX towns.

Act XX of 1856 was first applied to the towns of Katra, Khargupur, and Paraspur, its introduction dating from the 27th of March 1877, when the existing municipalities in the first two of these towns were abolished and the old octroi was replaced by the usual house tax. The operations of the Act were, however, withdrawn from Paraspur on the 17th of June 1902. Colonelganj and Sakraura were constituted a single area under the same Act on the 24th of June 1878, and there, too, the old municipality was abolished. These towns are managed on the usual system, and details of income and expenditure will be found in the separate articles.

District board.

The district board came into existence with Act XIV of 1883, when it took the place of the old district committee. It consists of thirteen members, of whom four hold their seats by virtue of their office, including the deputy commissioner as chairman and the three sub-divisional officers, and nine elected members, one being returned annually from each of the three tahsils for a period of three years. The work of the board is of the usual miscellaneous description, comprising the management of the local educational arrangements, dispensaries, and vaccination, and the maintenance of local roads, ferries, cattle pounds, and veterinary establishment. The income and expenditure of the board under the main heads since 1890-1 will be found in the appendix.*

Education.

Education has long been in a backward state in Gonda, although a considerable improvement has been effected in this direction of late years. The first effort made by Government took the form of a grant of money in support of the *zila* school at Gonda, which was founded in 1859 by private subscription and maintained partly by the subvention and partly by subscription from the taluqdars. The original intention was to start a school

* Appendix, table XV.

for the sons of taluqdars and zamindars, but afterwards it was thrown open to all comers, and in 1860 there were 114 students. It was managed by the district officer and a local committee. A new school house was built in 1865 at a cost of Rs. 6,500, of which Rs. 4,500 were derived from local funds. Other schools of a lower standard were started in 1861 at Gonda, Nawabganj, and elsewhere; they were supported by fees and private subscriptions. In 1863 Maharaja Sir Drigbijai Singh, who was a great champion of education, instituted an excellent Anglo-vernacular school at Balrampur, and introduced *halqabandi* schools at various places in his estate. The schools at Nawabganj, Gonda, and Utraula were constituted tahsili schools in 1865, but there were no Government village schools till two years later. In 1868 there were only five Government schools and twelve others in the district, but in the same year the school committee was formed and matters improved rapidly. By 1874 there were, in addition to the four town schools already mentioned and two subsequently added at Paraspur and Colonelganj, 54 village and 32 private schools, with a total attendance of 3,056 pupils. With the constitution of the district board in 1884 the management of the schools was transferred to that body, with the exception of the high school at Gonda, which remained in the charge of the Educational department. The statistics of education for each year since 1896 will be found in the appendix.* In 1904 there were 184 schools in the district, of which seven were secondary and 177 primary, with 9,320 pupils, of whom 182 were females, the total having doubled in the past eight years. The secondary schools include the high school and that at Balrampur, now known as the Lyall collegiate school, at both of which students read up to the university entrance examination; the middle vernacular schools at Utraula, Nawabganj, Paraspur, and Colonelganj; and the aided mission school at Golaganj in the town of Gonda. A list of all the schools in the district, showing their class and the average attendance in October 1904, will be found in the appendix. The aided schools are increasing in numbers and are doing good work. Female education has only lately received attention. For many years there were no girls'

* Appendix, table XVIII.

schools in the district, and at the present time there are but six; of these the schools at Gonda and Utraula are maintained from municipal funds, that at Machhligaon by the district board, and those at Ambhola in pargana Nawabganj, Paraspur, and Nawabganj are aided, the last being a mission institution. There was till recently another girls' school at Mathura Bazar, but this was closed in 1905. In addition to the schools shown in the list there are a few private schools in which Arabic and Sanskrit are taught.

Literacy.

The progress of education is illustrated by the returns of literacy compiled at each successive census. In 1881 the literate male population was 3·9 per cent. of the whole, while ten years later the proportion rose to 4·8, and at the last census of 1901 to 6·03 per cent., a figure that is above the provincial average and is only exceeded in four districts of Oudh. Female education had also increased, the percentage rising from ·05 in 1881 to ·09 at the last census; but the proportion is very small, and in Fatehpur alone of all the districts of the United Provinces were worse results achieved. Literacy is far more common among the Hindus than with the Musalmans, the proportion to the total male population being in the case of the former 6·23 per cent., and of the latter only 4·81, the reason being that in this district, as in Basti and Gorakhpur, there is a very large low caste element in the Musalman population. As usual, the degree of literacy varies greatly with different castes. The Kayasths occupy the foremost place, with 63·4 per cent. of their males able to read and write; while among the Chamars, at the other end of the social scale, barely one in a thousand could be described as literate. The great bulk of the educated population know the Nagri character only, the knowledge of the Persian script being generally confined to Musalmans.

Dispensaries.

The hospitals and dispensaries under the control of the district board are seven in number and are located at the three tahsil headquarters and at Nawabganj, Colonelganj, Sadullahnagar, and Mankapur. There is also a state-aided hospital for women at Gonda, as well as the usual police hospital, the Maharaja of Balrampur's hospitals for men and women at Balrampur, and his private dispensaries at Tulsipur, Pachperwa, Mathura Bazar,

and Chaudhridih. The Bengal and North-Western Railway Company has a small hospital near the station at Gonda. The *sadr* dispensary at Gonda was built in 1862 from a Government grant and subscriptions on the part of the taluqdars. It remained the only hospital in the district till the opening of the branch dispensary at Utraula in 1867. In 1871 the Balrampur hospital was opened; it was built by Sir Drigbijai Singh at a cost of a lakh of rupees and endowed with a similar sum. In connexion with it a medical school was instituted, the Maharaja contributing Rs. 10,000 annually towards its support. The latter was abolished in 1877 as it failed to achieve the object for which it was intended. The Balrampur hospital for females was dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Anson, wife of Colonel Anson, who for years administered the estate on behalf of the Court of Wards. The other dispensaries were added from time to time, the last being that at Mankapur, which was opened in 1903 with the object of meeting a long felt want in that part of the district. The building owes its origin to the Raja of Mankapur, who has guaranteed the funds requisite for its maintenance.

Cattle pounds.

The cattle pounds in the district are under the management of the district board, with the exception of those maintained by the municipalities of Gonda and Balrampur and the notified areas of Nawabganj and Utraula. Excluding the latter, there are now fourteen pounds in the district; they are located at all the police stations except Itiathok, and also at Khargupur and Mankapur or Raniganj. That at Andhiari has lately been removed to Rehra in pargana Sadullahnagar for purposes of convenience. These pounds were for the most part started at an early date and were under the direct control of the magistrate. After the constitution of the district board the net receipts were credited to the funds of the latter for several years, but it was not till 1900 that the management was transferred. The income from pounds forms a considerable item in the receipts of the district board and the municipalities. The former obtained on an average from 1891 to 1904 an annual net income of Rs. 4,441, and the latter no less than Rs. 6,247 in the last year of the period.

CHAPTER V.

HISTORY.

THE Gonda district falls within the tract of country described in the Hindu sacred books as Kosala. At the death of Rama of the Surajbans or solar line, who ruled this great kingdom from Ajodhya, Kosala was divided into two portions, a northern and a southern, the Ghagra forming the boundary. In Buddhist times the district was certainly included in the great kingdom of Sravasti, but, as is the case with so many of the ancient cities of India, the site of the capital is still disputed.* On the borders of the districts of Gonda and Bahraich lies a vast area of ruins known at the present day as Sahet Mahet or Set Mahet. For many years the identification of this site with Sravasti remained unchallenged, but the discovery of the pillar, which is believed to mark the birthplace of Buddha, in the Nepalese Tarai, caused a re-examination of the question, and the identification has now been doubted. Mr. V. A. Smith pointed out that Sahet Mahet is possibly too far to the south-east to be the Shi-sah-lo-ju-sih-tai of Hwen Thsiang, and he considered that Sravasti lay somewhere near the Rapti in Nepalese territory, a few miles north-east of Nepalganj.† The doubts thus expressed were contested by Dr. Bloch, who refers to the fact that in 1863 a large statue was found at Sahet Mahet, which bears an inscription stating that it was erected at Sravasti.‡ Wherever its situation may be, it is clear that at the time of Buddha Sravasti was the principal city near the Gonda district, and was his residence for several years. In the seventh century A.D. Hwen Thsiang found it desert and ruined, and the country round contained many heretics (Hindus). The kingdom of Sravasti is mentioned in copper plates of Harsha Vardhana (631—32 A.D.), Mahendrapala Sravasti.

* For a full account of the legends connected with Sravasti see Dr. Hoey, J.A.S.B., 1892, extra number.

† *The Remains near Kasia*, 1896, page 4, and J.R.A.S., 1898, page 520.

‡ J.A.S.B., 1898, page 274; Mr. Smith's rejoinder is in J.R.A.S., 1900, page 1.

(761—62), and Bhavagupta II (11th century), but its history in the later Hindu period is quite unknown. That Buddhism survived till the twelfth or thirteenth century is shown by the inscription discovered at Sahet Mahet by Dr. Hoey recording the erection of a monastery.* Later traditions have confused a mythical local raja called Suhil Dal, who is said to have fought in the great battle against Sáiyid Salar, with a dynasty mentioned in the *Jaimini Bharata* as ruling at Champakapuri.†

Suhil Dal. This Suhil Dal or Sohel Deo is variously described as a Jain of Rajput descent, a Bhar, a Tharu, or a Dom, and the local legends connect him with Sahet Mahet, Asokpur, and other places. The story shows him to have been the head of a confederacy of Hindus who united to oppose the invasion of Saiyid Salar Masaud, with the result that the latter was eventually overthrown and slain at Bahraich, while the Hindu leader also lost his life. Asokpur was the traditional scene of another fight, in which Hatila Pir, a lieutenant of Saiyid Salar, was killed in storming the Hindu stronghold. Possibly Suhil Dal was an historical personage: it is known that the Jain religion flourished at Sahet Mahet, and a Jain temple, built long after the town had fallen into ruin, still stands there, and is an object of pilgrimage to this day. Further, the remains found at Khargupur, Machhligaon, Paras, and Debi Patan, as well as the numerous brick-strewn mounds that mark the site of villages of an early epoch, show that at a remote period a certain degree of civilization was achieved.

The Doms. With the extinction of the Musalman invaders the district appears to have again lapsed into barbarism. There are no old Muhammadan towns in Gonda whose inhabitants claim descent from the companions of Masaud, and the Hindus remained supreme for several centuries. Ajodhya was still a wilderness, for it was not at any rate till the reign of Altamsh that the armies of Dehli subdued the province of Oudh. There were no Rajputs either: the Raghubansis who claim descent from the old solar rulers of Ajodhya are not found in any strength on this side of the Ghagra, but remained, if they remained at all, on the

* *Indian Antiquary*, XVII, page 62.

† Dr. Hoey, *op. cit.*, page 5.

southern bank. The whole of Gonda was ruled by low caste aborigines—Doms, Tharus, Bhars, Pasis, and the like. Tradition states that the Jain dynasty of Sahet Mahet gave place to the Doms of Domangarh on the Rapti in Gorakhpur, and that of this race came Ugarsen, a notable raja who built Domariadih, once a town, but now a mere mound of earth and bricks on the road from Gonda to Fyzabad. This Ugarsen was a great man, but he came to grief in the usual way by demanding in marriage the daughter of a Brahman. This insult attracted the attention of the subahdar of Oudh, a valiant Kayasth, named Rai Jagat Singh, who came from Sultanpur with a large force and overthrew the Dom. The story is variously told, for according to another account the subahdar in question was Malik Ain-ud-din of Karra Manikpur. The date of the overthow of the Doms is traditionally given as 1376 A.D.

The Rajputs.

This story is told as a prelude to the early Rajput domination of the south of the district. The first clans of whom mention is made are the Bandhalgotis, Kalhans, and Bais. Of the latter nothing is known, and it may be fairly assumed that they are of indigenous origin. The Bandhalgotis, who claim a connexion with their namesakes in Amethi of Sultanpur, settled in pargana Nawabganj and thence spread north into Mahadewa and Mankapur, where they established an independent principality, which flourished for many generations. They state that one Newal Sah of Amethi accompanied Rai Jagat Singh, and that he distinguished himself by the capture of Ramanpur, then held by one of the Dom Raja's lieutenants. When the subahdar in reward for his exploits obtained possession of Amorha, he granted the Nawabganj pargana to Newal Sah. Another story relates that the same subahdar gave Mahadewa to one Sahaj Singh, the founder of the Kalhans clan; but the tradition is not uniform, for it is also said that Sahaj Singh was deputed by Ain-ud-din to subdue the Doms, and that he came hither with a band of followers and overthrew the local raja. This Sahaj Singh, according to the accepted tradition, was a native of Baglana in Gujarat, and a curious legend tells that he was partly of European descent.* He joined in the rebellion of Baha-ud-din of Malwa

* Gazetteer of Bara Banki, page 155.

against Muhammad *bin* Tughlaq, and on its suppression fled for refuge to his friend Ain-ud-din at Karra.

The Kalhans.

The descendants of Sahaj Singh established a powerful kingdom with headquarters at Khurasa, which extended over the whole of the south of the district. Under their protection various other Rajput colonies sprang up, such as the Bisens of Qila Rampur in Digsir and the Gauraha Bisens of Mahadewa, both of whom claim connexion with the famous Bisen house of Majhauli in Gorakhpur. Guwarich was apparently absorbed by the great Raikwar houses of Baundi and Ramnagar, while in the north the Janwars of Ikauna were beginning to make their influence felt in the lands south of the Rapti. Mention should also be made of the Sarwaria Brahmans, who appear to have been settled in the southern parganas from very remote times, and are now the most numerous caste in this part of the district. The Kalhans appear to have maintained their hegemony between the Ghagra and Kuwana for several centuries, the family pedigrees differing in showing seven and thirteen generations between Sahaj Singh and the last Raja of Khurasa.

The Dehli Sultans.

The references to this district by the Musalman historians during this period are extremely meagre. The country was included in the government of Bahraich and has no independent history.* The road from Bahraich to Ajodhya lay through Gonda and Khurasa, and was frequently traversed by various governors. Neither place is mentioned, however, till the reign of Ghias-ud-din Tughlaq, who is said to have received the submission of the local chieftains on his march to Bengal.† At a later date Firoz Shah took the same route, and it is said that the Raja of Khurasa accompanied him to Lakhnauti.‡ Generally this remote and forest-covered tract seems to have been left to itself, probably because the local chieftains were not sufficiently powerful to attract attention.

Achal Singh.

The last Kalhans ruler of Khurasa was Achal Singh or Achal Narain Singh, whose name is still remembered in local legends. He is said to have been a great warrior, and one story even goes so

* Gazetteer of Bahraich, page 119 et seq.

† E. H. I., III, 234.

‡ Ibid., III, 294.

far as to say that he was the first of his race to come to Oudh, being an adventurer from Gujarat in the army of Dariao Khan, the founder of Daryabad in Bara Banki.* He enlarged his property greatly and spread his victorious arms beyond the Ghagra. His end was due to his unbridled tyranny and oppression, which culminated in the abduction of a Brahman girl, the daughter of one Ratan Pande. The latter pleaded in vain for reparation, and died after sitting *dharna* at the door of the raja's palace for twenty-one days. With his dying breath he cursed the tyrant, and his threat of vengeance was fulfilled by the utter destruction of the raja, his palace, and the town of Khurasa in an inundation of the Sarju, though the geography of the country must have then been very different from that of the present day to admit of the possibility of such an event. A more prosaic version of the story attributes the downfall of the raja to his arrears of revenue due to Mubariz Khan Adili in 1544, for which Ratan Pande had stood security: the date is probably correct.†

With the fall of the Kalhans came a general redistribution of territory. Bhring Sah, the son of Achal Narain, fled eastwards and founded a new estate in Babhnipair and Rasulpur Ghaus of Basti; his other son, Maharaj Singh, went to Dehras in Guwarich and there laid the foundations of the great property held by the Kalhans of the Chhedwara; the Bandhalgotis strengthened their position in Mankapur and refused to acknowledge a suzerain; the Janwars in the north extended their possessions, which developed in the course of time into the vast estate of Balrampur; the Gauraha Bisens in Mahadewa became practically independent; and the other Bisens in Digsir rose from their low estate to a position which soon overshadowed that of the other clans. It was about this time that the only important settlement of Musalmans took place, led by Ali Khan, the Kakar Pathan who founded the Utraula house. His history has been already given in the account of the Utraula taluqa. It seems certain that there was at that time a town of Utraula in existence, and it is possible that the story of its being the seat of a Rajput principality is founded on fact; but nothing else is known of Utraula.

* *The Castes of Oudh*, by P. Carnegy, p. 47; Gazetteer of Bara Banki, p. 155.

† Settlement report, p. 9.

this race. Ali Khan was a constant rebel against the authority of Akbar, and it would seem that he lost his life in 1571 when fighting on the side of Ali Quli Khan, Khan Zaman; but his son, Sheikhan Khan, had made his peace with the authorities and was allowed to hold the Utraula estate and to transmit this large property to his descendants.

The Bisens.

The wide tract of country held by Achal Singh passed almost at once into the hands of the Digsir Bisens. Partab Singh, of Gauhani, was chaudhri of pargana Khurasa, and his brother, Sarabjit Singh, was the chief officer of the raja's army. Taking advantage of the opportunity offered, they became the rulers of the estate, and it was at this period that the town of Gonda came into existence and the foundations were laid of the great Bisen *raj* that is so closely bound up with the history of the district till the advent of British rule.

Akbar.

This new tribal division of the territory had hardly become consolidated by the time of Akbar, so far as the catalogue of the prevailing clans given in the *Ain-i-Akbari* can be trusted. The great chieftainships of Gonda and Balrampur were not reflected in the pargana divisions, as the former had not yet emerged from the wide *raj* of Khurasa and the latter was still a dependant of Ikauna. At that time the district was divided between the three *sarkars* of Oudh, Bahraich, and Gorakhpur in the province of Oudh. The names of the component parganas or mahals, as they were then styled, have been preserved, but they seldom represent the existing sub-divisions in their entirety: in some cases the names are identical with their present appellations, but in others changes have occurred from time to time, and it is far from easy to determine the position of some of the modern parganas from Akbar's list.

Sarkar Bahraich.

The Bahraich *sarkar* contained eleven mahals, but most of these lay undoubtedly within the limits of the present district of that name. It seems probable that Hisampur extended into Gonda and included most of pargana Paharapur and part of Guwarich. The eastern boundary of mahal Bahrah, too, cannot be accurately determined, and probably it extended into Balrampur. But one mahal, going by the name of Kharonsa, which is almost certainly a corruption of Khurasa, without doubt lay within

the Gonda district and apparently comprised all the land between the Terhi and Kuwana rivers, stretching as far east as the Utraula boundary. There was a brick fort at headquarters and the zamindars were Bais, who contributed a contingent of 100 horse and 1,000 foot. These Bais are somewhat mysterious, but frequently the names of the Rajput clans were dealt with carelessly, and it may be conjectured that the reading should be Bisens, especially as this is actually stated by Mr. Benett, who compared several manuscripts.* Most of the pargana was still under forest, for the cultivated area was only 28,490 *bighas*, and the revenue 1,315,051 *dáms*.

Sarkar Gorakhpur.

The sarkar of Gorakhpur included 24 mahals and comprised the whole of the present districts of Gorakhpur and Basti as well as the bulk of Gonda. The mahal of Utraula then comprised the parganas of Utraula, Sadullahnagar, and Burhapara, and their sub-division did not occur till many years after, when it was effected by a partition between different members of the Utraula house. There was a brick fort at headquarters and the zamindars were Afghans, as at present; they contributed 50 horse and 1,500 infantry. The cultivated area was 32,052 *bighas* and the revenue 1,397,367 *dáms*. North of Utraula and Khurasa lay the vast undefined mahal of Ramgarh Gauri, which extended to the forests of Tulsipur, then styled the Daman-i-koh. Ramgarh Gauri is locally said to have been the old name of the whole district, but its derivation is not traceable. The mahal was held by Sombansi Rajputs, who are probably the Janwars, and for military purposes it was linked with Binaikpur to the east. Very little of this wide tract was then reclaimed, the cultivated area being only 10,762 *bighas* and the revenue 485,943 *dáms*. South of Utraula and adjoining Khurasa on the east lay Rahli, a name which is still preserved in a small village of pargana Nawabganj. This mahal included approximately Nawabganj, Mahadewa, and part of Mankapur. It was held by Bisens, who contributed 1,000 infantry: the cultivated area was 33,184 *bighas* and the revenue 1,618,074 *dáms*. Babhnipair already was a separate mahal, but it probably was somewhat larger than at present, comprising part of Mankapur and

* Settlement report, p. 11.

extending into the Basti district. The zamindars were Rajputs, but the clan is not specified, and Mr. Benett even reads Brahmans. The military contingent was 2,000 foot, a large number, for the mahal had but 6,688 *bighas* under cultivation, assessed at 414,194 *dáms*.

Sarkar Oudh.

There remains but the single mahal of Guwarich or Gawarchak, as it is written in the *Ain-i-Akbari*, and this for some reason or other belonged to the sarkar of Oudh: possibly because it was the grazing ground for the subahdar's cattle, from which the name is said to have been derived. This mahal included the present Guwarich and most of Digsir; possibly, too, Paharapur. It was owned by Raikwars, who have long since been driven westwards by the growing power of the Kalhans. The local levies numbered 50 horse and 1,070 foot, the cultivated area was 79,158 *bighas*, and the revenue 3,773,417 *dáms*.

The revenue.

The total revenue assessed on the district was thus 9,004,046 *dáms* or roughly Rs. 2,25,100 on a cultivated area of 118,960 acres. The average incidence was consequently Re. 1·89 per acre of cultivation, a surprisingly high figure and greatly in excess of that prevailing even at present, even if the vastly greater purchasing power of the rupee at that period be left out of consideration. The revenue was based on a crop rate, and it was admittedly too high, for in subsequent years the amount was reduced by one half or even more. In the sixth year of Akbar's reign the rate for wheat was 90 and for barley and gram 80 *dáms* to the *bigha* throughout Oudh, while in the twenty-fourth year the rates varied from 38 to 40 in the former and from 21 to 40 in the latter case. It should further be remembered that in theory one-third of the produce went to the crown, and the demand stood in a nearer relation to rent than to revenue; but even so the amount was very large for a district in so obviously backward a state.

The Rajas of Gonda.

From the days of Akbar to the epoch of the Nawab Wazirs of Oudh the history of the district is merely the history of the great clans and taluqdari houses, who were thenceforth gradually consolidating their power and estates. The tract is practically beyond the sphere of imperial history and, save for the part taken by the Afghans of Utraula in the rebellion of Khan Zaman of Jaunpur in the early years of Akbar's reign, Gonda never

figures in the Musalman annals. The political focus had shifted eastwards to Bihar and Bengal, and this district remained in peace so far as external interests were concerned, though its internal history was very different. The centre of gravity here was Gonda and its Bisen rulers. In the north Balrampur and Utraula were rapidly growing in importance, and later on a new element was introduced in the shape of the Chauhan immigration from the Nepal hills into the forest tract of Tulsipur; but the chieftains beyond the Kuwana were small folk as compared with their neighbours to the south, and, moreover, the history of that tract has already been given in the accounts of the taluqas.

Partab Singh, the Bisen successor of Achal Singh, was followed by his son, Shah Mal, and then by his grandson, Kusum Mal. According to the general account, neither of these men assumed the title of raja, but continued to reside at the family headquarters of Gauhani. During their time the Bisens spread all over the Gonda pargana, and thus arose the branches of Bankata, Ramapur, Khera Dih, and elsewhere. In the next generation came Man Singh, the reputed founder of Gonda. He is said to have lived in the reign of Jahangir, and the story goes that in 1618 he presented to the emperor at Ajmer a fine elephant caught in the northern jungles through Mirza Ali Beg, styled the jagirdar of Khurasa, and that in reward he obtained the title of raja. The tale is probably a fiction, invented to illustrate the growing power of this branch of the Bisens and the acknowledgement of their supremacy by the other members of the clan. Man Singh was followed by Raja Lachhman Singh, while his three younger sons obtained, it is said, as many as 640 villages, from Khargupur to Mankapur: they are now represented by the Thakurs of Bidianagar, Kaimi, and Garhi, who hold a few villages in the west of Mankapur and in Mahadewa. After Lachhman Singh came Raja Nirbahan Singh, who had four sons, of whom the eldest was Raja Arjun Singh, while from the two youngest are descended the Bisens of Birdiha, Hindunagar, and Bishambarpur. Arjun Singh died childless and was succeeded by the second brother, Raja Amar Singh. These reigns were for the most part uneventful and were chiefly distinguished by a peaceful extension of cultivation by the various colonies of

the clan. This movement brought the Bisens into contact with the neighbouring tribes—Kalhans, Raikwars, and Janwars. The Rajas of Ikauna were then at the zenith of their power, and in the days of Amar Singh they sent a force across the Kuwana and possessed themselves of a large tract in the north of Gonda, the Bisens being apparently not strong enough to repel this encroachment.

Raja Ram Singh.

With the death of Amar Singh about 1665 and the accession of his son, Raja Ram Singh, a new era of prosperity commenced for the Bisens. He promptly carried the war into the enemy's country and destroyed the fort which the Janwars had built at Bhatpui, between the Kuwana and Bisuhi, afterwards finally ejecting the intruders from that tract. He then turned his attention to the west and drove out the Raikwars from the lowlands, annexing 74 villages, which were formed into the new pargana of Paharapur. His two sons were Datt Singh and Bhawani Singh, born to him in his old age, through the miraculous intervention, it is said, of the celebrated saint, Ganga Gir Goshain, who planted the famous *chilbil* tree at Gonda, which in popular belief was bound up with the fortunes of the ruling house.

Raja Datt Singh.

Ram Singh died in 1698 and was succeeded by his elder son, Raja Datt Singh, who rose to be the most powerful of the chieftains north of the Ghagra. His name still lives throughout the district, and with good reason, for his exploits were of no mean order. His first expedition is said to have been against the Pathans of Bahraich in revenge for an outrage on a Brahman woman. He then turned his arms southwards beyond the Terhi, and in this campaign, as in all subsequent undertakings, he was joined by his valuable allies, the Pathans of Utraula. His success was rapid. Paraspur and Ata were conquered and annexed, and the boundary of Bisen power fixed to the south of the town of Paraspur.

Alawal Khan.

It was not long after, however, that the Bisens were threatened in an unlooked for direction. Saadat Khan had obtained possession of Oudh and at once set himself to the work of reducing to submission the most powerful of the local chieftains. He appointed Alawal Khan, an Afghan of Bahraich, to the charge of the country beyond the Ghagra, and the latter on his first visit

to Gonda insulted the raja, who was of small stature, by lifting him off his feet while embracing him. Datt Singh replied by presenting in place of his brother one Bhairon Rai, a gigantic Gauraha Bisen, of Mahadewa, who returned the compliment. After this the Gonda Raja refused to pay revenue, and Alawal Khan was sent with a considerable force to Gonda. Crossing the Ghagra at Paska, he was joined by the Kalhans, with whose aid he stormed the Paska fort and then defeated a Brahman contingent at Malauna. Advancing towards Gonda, he compelled Datt Singh to temporize, as many of his troops were absent at Debi Patan; but after a short delay the raja collected his forces and a great fight occurred at Sarbhangpur in pargana Paharapur. After a desperate struggle Alawal Khan was killed by Bhairon Rai and the Nawab's forces fled. Bhairon Rai was rewarded with the zamindari of Mahadewa, and Datt Singh recovered his position; but not for long. Gonda was shortly afterwards besieged by a second army and was reduced to great straits, but the siege was eventually raised on the arrival of a large force of Bisens of Ramapur in the north of the pargana. The raja then came to terms with the government and agreed to pay revenue, but his territories were made into a separate jurisdiction, independent of the nazim of Bahraich. This arrangement does not seem to have curtailed Datt Singh's power, but rather to have increased it. He managed to place his brother, Bhawani Singh, in possession of the Janwar estate of Bhinga, which henceforth was held by the Bisens. He also seized the Bandhalgoti *raj* of Mankapur and gave it to his younger son, Azmat Singh, while still an infant. At a later date he quarrelled with the Raja of Bansi and after a long campaign overthrew him, sacking his capital and carrying off the doors of his palace to adorn his own at Gonda. So great was his influence that all the chieftains north of the Ghagra, Nanpara alone excepted, acknowledged him as suzerain and brought their forces into the field at his command. Between the Ghagra and the Kuwana the Bisen Raja had no rival, and the power remained in the hands of his descendants till the Mutiny.

His successors.

Datt Singh was succeeded by his elder son, Raja Udit Singh, who like his father retained the engagement of the whole of his

estate as a separate revenue division under the Lucknow government. He was more given to religion than to war, and made several expeditions to Muttra and other places of pilgrimage. He had two sons, Mangal Singh and Pahlwan Singh, of whom the former married a Kalhans of Paraspur; peace was then made between the two clans, and the land taken from the Kalhans by Datt Singh was restored. The reign of Mangal Singh was very short. He had been invited to arbitrate between the two sons of the Raja of Bansi, and while absent in Basti was murdered by a Surajbansi of Amorha, a partizan of one of the claimants. His son, Sheo Parshad Singh, at once marched into Amorha and laid waste his pargana, which he annexed to his own dominions. He was a peaceful and prudent prince and retained the whole of his ancestral possessions under the former arrangement. He was succeeded by his son, Raja Jai Singh, who refused to pay the accustomed tribute, and incurred the wrath of the authorities by interfering with an English officer who had been sent to assist the nazim in the collection of the revenue and who had established salt or indigo works at Gauhani. The result was a short and decisive encounter on the banks of the Terhi, in which Jai Singh was defeated; he fled to the hills, where he died, while his wives were with difficulty saved by their Pande bodyguard. His power was for some time exercised by Rani Phul Kunwar, but the nearest relatives were the descendants of Pahlwan Singh. The latter had three sons, of whom the eldest, Duniapat Singh, was dead, leaving two children, Guman Singh and Daljit Singh; the second was Hindupat Singh, and the third Madho Singh of Mahnon. The rani adopted Guman Singh, but Hindupat objected and she was compelled to fly to Bankata; but at the crossing of the Bisuhi she was murdered by Hindupat, who endeavoured unsuccessfully to secure Guman Singh also. After a short time the latter was induced to leave his hiding place at Ajodhya and went to Gonda, where his life was preserved through the vigilance of the Pandes, Mardan Ram and Bakhtawar Ram, the sons of Bhawan Datt, the banker, who had come to Gonda from Ikauna during the reign of Sheo Parshad. Eventually, after several attempts had been made on the life of Guman Singh, the Pandes attacked Hindupat and slew him and his whole family. Guman

Singh became raja, but on account of his youth and the disturbances that attended his accession the revenue officials stepped in, and Nirmal Das, brother of the famous minister, Tikait Rai, who was then at Bahraich, marched with a large force to Gonda and took the estate under direct management.

Nawabi rule.

Thus ended the unique system under which the Gonda estate had been a separate district for administrative purposes. The old fiscal arrangements of Akbar's time had been maintained till the days of Asaf-ud-daula, who instituted the division into *nizamats* and *chaklas*. The parganas of Gonda, Paharapur, Digsir, and Mahadewa formed the Bisen estate, while Guwarich was joined to the Bahraich *nizamat* and the remainder of the district to Gorakhpur. In 1773 the Gonda estate was made over to the Bahu Begam in *jagir* and till 1799 it was managed by her eunuch, Darab Ali Khan; but it was not till 1793 that he collected the revenue, as prior to that date it was made over in a lump sum by the raja. The first nazim of Gorakhpur was Khwaja Muhammad from 1772 to 1775; he was followed by Mir Muazzam for a year, and then by Muhammad Said Khan Qandahari and Colonel Peake for two years each, and after the latter came Basti Ram, Surat Singh, and Mirza Abdulla Beg in 1781 and the two following years. During this period Sidi Umar Khan held office in Bahraich. He was followed by Khwaja Ain-ud-din, during whose time the great famine occurred, the terror of which was aggravated by the severity of his exactions. The same man was one of the ten officials who held Gorakhpur between 1784 and 1800.

Cession of Gorakhpur.

By the treaty of the 10th November 1801 the Nawab Wazir ceded to the British various tracts of land, including the parganas of Rahli and Nawabganj assessed at Rs. 1,19,243, in commutation of the subsidy paid for the maintenance of troops by the company.* In this way Mahadewa, Mankapur, Babhnipair, and Nawabganj, which had been separated from Rahli and held under direct management from Fyzabad, were added to the British district of Gorakhpur ceded at the same time. The latter included Amorha, which thus passed from the hands of the Gonda raja. The zamindars of the ceded parganas still hold copies of judgements of the Benares Provincial Court, delivered at the

*Aitchison's Treaties, II, 104.

beginning of the nineteenth century. With this change the remnants of the Gorakhpur *nizamat* were added to Bahraich, which was till 1805 in the charge of Rai Jugal Kishor, while Maharaja Nirmal Das, an able administrator who had held Bahraich previously, managed the Begam's *jagir*. From 1806 to 1816 the latter estate was in the hands of five different persons, the last being Mardan Ram, one of the Pande brothers who removed Hindupat Singh. Of the Gonda nazims the most famous was Hakim Mehndi Ali Khan, who held charge from 1808 to 1810, and the Kayasth Rai Amar Singh from 1812 to 1817. The latter's territory was largely increased in 1816, when by a second treaty the ceded parganas of this district were restored to Oudh in exchange for Handia in Allahabad;* and in the same year the Gonda estate was incorporated in the *nizamat*. In 1818 Mehndi Ali Khan returned and the district flourished greatly under his beneficent rule. Two years later he lost the contract through the jealousy of his rivals, and Gonda fell to Hadi Ali Khan, who held it with two short interruptions till 1835. After him came fourteen nazims in twenty years, and of these the most noteworthy were Raja Darshan Singh in 1837 and again in 1842 and 1843; Raghubar Dayal Singh in 1846 and the succeeding year; Inchha Singh in 1848, and Maharaja Man Singh of the same family in 1851. The last succeeded the notorious Muhammad Hasan Khan, who held the district for two years and afterwards assumed the position of nazim in Gorakhpur during the Mutiny. The last to hold office in Gonda-Bahraich was Rai Sadhan Lal, from 1853 to annexation.

System of administration.

From the accession of Guman Singh to the close of native rule the history of the district resolves itself into a series of independent accounts, connected with the great taluqdari houses. These have been for the most part already dealt with in a preceding chapter, in which the history of the Balrampur, Utraula, and other estates has been given. The interest still centres, however, round Gonda and its rajas, though the other local chieftains were rapidly growing in power and importance. By the beginning of the nineteenth century the power of Utraula had been broken and the revenue officials made their collections direct

* Aitchison's Treaties, II, 137.

from every village in the pargana. Balrampur and Tulsipur held out, and, though frequently defeated in the field, managed to maintain their position, and were let off with a lump assessment on the whole estate. The less powerful lords of Mankapur and Babhnipair were, on the other hand, seldom allowed to collect the rents in their own villages and pay the revenue in a lump sum to the nazim. Consequently only the leading hereditary chieftains were supreme within the territorial limits of their dominions, and as long as they retained that position the formation of the mushroom taluqas, so common elsewhere, by revenue farmers was impossible within the spheres of their influence. When the Gonda and Utraula estates were broken up and held direct by official collectors, such a process became natural; for the nazims found it convenient and often necessary to let large numbers of villages to wealthy individuals. The dispossessed rajas attempted to form taluqas for themselves in this way, and so the Bisens acquired the magnificent estate of Bishambarpur; the Pathans succeeded for a while, but eventually failed to combine the position of farmers with that of feudal lords and had to be content with a few villages assigned for their support. Elsewhere, as in Guwarich, the hereditary chieftains both retained their ancestral estates and also added to them by contracting for the villages of their neighbours, so that by the favour of the nazims the Kalhans of the Chhedwara acquired most of the lands formerly held by the Saiyids of Jarwal in Bahraich. But the only great taluqas formed in this fashion were those of the Pandes of Gonda, with whose power and wealth no one in the district could compete. The family of Darshan Singh attempted to gain possession of land by compulsion, but the transaction was never recognized as valid by other officials, and the nominal purchaser lost all connexion with the villages when he was transferred from his *nizamat*.

So powerful were the nazims that their individual character and disposition, especially in the case of those who held office for several years, left a strong impression on the history of the district. Such was Hadi Ali Khan, better known as Saif-ud-daula, who held the district for over twelve years; he kept on good terms with the great chieftains, and, while treating them

The nazims.

leniently, maintained order and secured a certain measure of justice. Three years after his death his widow, Wajih-un-nissa, attempted to carry on the *nizamat*, but, though she showed great bravery, leading her troops in person, she failed to inspire fear and after being defeated by the Raja of Bhinga she resigned. Darshan Singh, though not unjust to the cultivators, treated the zamindars relentlessly, and by dispossessing the taluqdars all over the district raised the revenue to an unprecedented height. The Rajas of Gonda and Balrampur had to fly before him, and his pursuit of the latter into Nepal brought him into disgrace. His son, Raghubar Dayal, was a tyrant of the worst description, and the havoc he wrought throughout the north of Oudh has been graphically depicted by Sleeman.* Man Singh, his younger brother, followed in the footsteps of his father, and by raising the revenue to an impossible height obtained compulsory deeds of sale for large areas. The last nazim, Rai Sadhan Lal, was a servant of Raja Krishn Datt Ram Pande, and acted virtually under his orders.

The revenue.

The old records of the qanungos preserved after the Mutiny show the amount collected by the various rulers of Gonda, and are of considerable interest. The principle of assessment was that the government took the whole of the landlord's share and remitted a share, varying from a quarter to a tenth, to the village headman. This was the system followed in directly managed villages; where the raja was left in possession, special arrangements were made according to his position and influence. The average collections from 1794 to 1819, excluding pargana Digsir, for which no returns are available, was Rs. 7,56,591. From 1820 to 1835 the average for the entire district was Rs. 10,61,522. From 1837 to annexation the average was Rs. 11,71,853; this period including 1839, when the strong arm of Darshan Singh, who brought practically all Gonda under his direct control, collected Rs. 13,23,035.

In 1846 again Raghubar Dayal's assessment was Rs. 12,28,796, and this, too, was considerably above the average. On this subject we may quote Mr. Benett: "The difficulty of forming a precise judgement as to the effect of these assessments is

* *Tour in Oude*, I, 70—97.

immensely increased by the impossibility of ascertaining the actual area under cultivation, but some light is thrown on this question by the practice which obtained of occasionally letting loose the whole revenue staff on some unfortunate division, and realizing from the inhabitants every farthing that an irresistible force could extort. In those cases it is inconceivable that any fraction of the rent could have been left to the zamindars, and in fact the violent sale of agricultural capital probably brought in something considerable in addition to total rent. The earliest instance of this is furnished by Mahadewa, which in 1825 was made to yield Rs. 900 to the square mile, or more than double its average payments for the last twenty years before annexation. The pargana was full of turbulent and warlike zamindari communities, besides having one influential landed proprietor in the Pande, and, making every allowance for the proceeds from sale of capital stock in the year of exceptional extortion, it is probable that the full rent was at least between 50 and 75 per cent. in excess of the ordinary revenue payments. In 1854 Paharapur yielded Rs. 800 and Nawabganj Rs. 511 to the square mile, in each case about 50 per cent. in advance of the usual realizations, and it is not very unsafe to conjecture that the difference represented something roughly approaching the profits left to the zamindars in ordinary years. In Guwarich the process seems to have become nearly chronic, as the ease with which it could be controlled from the opposite bank of the Ghagra rendered it an exceptionally favourable field for the nazim's extortions. In twelve years it paid sums slightly over or under Rs. 1,000 to the square mile, and in 1853, when it obtained a merciful nazim in Rai Sadhan Lal, an inhabitant of the pargana, the revenue was at once reduced by a half. There is no wonder that the Thakurs of Chhedwara were in constant revolt, and, in spite of the crimes of violence which stained their rebellion, indignation seems rather deserved by the Government which made that rebellion inevitable. If we turn to the north, we find a still greater difference between ordinary and extraordinary realizations. Balrampur paid for two years in 1842 and 1843 more than double, and Tulsipur in 1854 more than treble, its ordinary rate, and we may safely conclude that

the rajas in other years retained respectively more than a half and two-thirds of the rents of their tenantry. What has already been said is enough to show that the government demand under native rule varied from less than a third of the gross rental in the north to something like two-thirds in the south, while in Guwarich for several years together the utmost rack rent was extorted. These premises would lead us to conclude at a rough estimate that the ordinary position of the zamindari classes was one of moderate comfort, tempered by the liability to occasional ruinous exactions. Other points should be noticed, such as the elasticity of the demand, which varied with almost every year, and was accommodated by good nazims to the state of the harvests, the ease with which inevitable arrears were avoided, and the rough but effectual means of realizing rents. The first point is reflected in the lists of assessments, and with regard to the second it may be remarked that there is ample proof that the actual realizations almost always fell considerably below the nominal demand."*

The Gonda Rajas.

It remains to deal with the later history of the Gonda estate in particular and also the general state of disturbance into which the district had fallen in the last years preceding the annexation of Oudh. When Nirmal Das proceeded to Gonda after the murder of Hindupat, he seized Guman Singh and sent him in custody to Lucknow. There he remained in confinement till he excited the interest of the celebrated Mahant Jagjiwan Das of Kotwa in Bara Banki, who was the founder of the Sattnami sect and a person of great influence.† His intercession obtained the raja's release, and he subsequently gave him in marriage his daughter, Bhagwant Kunwar, a lady of great ability, who survived the whole of her husband's family. Guman Singh returned to Gonda and was allowed for his support 32 villages and a cash assignment. He was a man of some capacity and rapidly put together a taluqa from the villages of his parganas, and, though he never regained the engagement for the whole estate of his predecessors, retained the power of granting villages in *birt*, and issued *sanads* remitting revenue, couched in an imperial style.

* Settlement report, p. 35.

† Gazetteer of Bara Banki, p. 67.

He died in 1836, leaving a large estate and considerable wealth, but no son. A short interregnum ensued, the Pandes favouring the cause of Sanuman Singh, son of Madho Singh of Mahnon, but eventually the widow of Saif-ud-daula, who was then nazim, placed on the throne Debi Bakhsh Singh, son of Daljit Singh, the younger brother of the late raja. He was a prudent and able man, and managed his estate from his strong fort at Jignan in the east of the pargana. His property rapidly increased; he allowed no interference between himself and the cultivators of his land, and crushed the pretensions of the old zamindari communities of Bisens, confining them rigorously to the lands in their own cultivating occupancy, which, however, he allowed them to hold at very favourable rates. His influence is illustrated by the fact that he married a daughter of the Raja of Bhadawar, and thus formed an alliance with one of the highest Rajput families in northern India. As already mentioned, he fled before Darshan Singh into British territory, in order to avoid a forced deed of sale for his valuable property; but in spite of the protection he thus received, he remained a determined foe to the British, and this attitude brought about the ultimate downfall of the entire *raj*. The history of the Pandes, who were so closely connected with the fortunes of the Bisens, has already been given in chapter III.

State of the district.

The general state of the district during the latter years of Nawabi rule is graphically reviewed by General Sleeman. Though there were several powerful chieftains whose word was law within their estates, a constant state of warfare was maintained between them and the Government, while the smaller taluqdars were ever fighting with their neighbours. The Kalhans of Guwarich were among the chief offenders, and pre-eminent among them was Pirthipat Singh of Paska, one of the most notorious freebooters of northern India, though Sleeman remarks that he was no worse than many of his brethren in other parts of the province.* The district, or at least a great part of it, had flourished greatly under the Bahu Begam, but the nazims, and especially Saif-ud-daula, began the system of transferring the *khalsa* lands to the taluqdars, who introduced the ordinary rule of plunder and

* *Tour in Oude*, I, 27, 37.

spoliation. "As the local officers of the Oudh Government became weak by the gradual withdrawal of British troops from aiding in the collection of revenue and the suppression of rebellion and disorder, and by the deterioration in the character of the Oudh troops raised to supply their places, the taluqdars became stronger and stronger. They withheld more and more of the revenue due to Government, and expended the money in building forts and strongholds, casting and purchasing cannon, and maintaining large armed bands of followers. All that they withheld from the public treasury was laid out in providing the means for resisting the officers of Government; and in time it became a point of honour to pay nothing to the sovereign without first fighting with his officers."* Saif-ud-daula's successors continued the same system, which from their point of view was cheap and effectual, and this was particularly the case in this district with the Chhedwara. Darshan Singh adopted a different policy, for he sought to reduce the power of the taluqdars; the fault in his case lay rather with the method of execution than with the conception of his scheme. His excess of zeal caused his own temporary disgrace and left the district in great confusion and distress. His son, Raghubar Dayal, went further and laid the lands in his charge completely waste. His attentions were fortunately directed rather to Bahraich than to Gonda, but this district did not escape, especially the towns of Khargupur and Nawabganj, which were deliberately sacked.† Reports brought to Sleeman showed that only the lands of the weaker chieftains were afflicted in the same way as Bahraich; Balrampur, Tulsipur, Gonda, and Guwarich were in good order, but Utraula, Mankapur, and Babhnipair were "much out of tillage," and in that state they remained till more peaceful days. The general insecurity and distress were so great in the eastern parganas that the Resident records that the people mournfully regretted the restoration of their lands to Oudh in 1816.

Annexation.

In February 1856 the province of Oudh was annexed by the British Government, and Gonda became a separate district in the Gonda-Bahraich commissionership with Mr. C. Wingfield

* *Tour in Oude*, I, 56.

† Ibid., p. 89.

as Commissioner and Colonel Boileau as Deputy Commissioner. Annexation passed off quietly, although the Gonda Raja exhibited strong disapproval of the measure and was with difficulty persuaded to leave his fort at Gonda and meet the district officer. His fears proved quite unfounded, for he was allowed to engage for practically the whole of his estate at a revenue of Rs. 80,000. The military headquarters of the Commissioner were at Sikraura or Colonelganj, but the civil station was at Gonda from the first. Colonel Boileau was engaged throughout 1856 in establishing tahsils and police stations, with the settlement of the land revenue, and the multifarious work required for evolving order out of chaos. Early in 1857 he had to take steps against a notorious freebooter named Fazl Ali, who was lurking in the jungles in the north of the district, from which he would occasionally sally forth to plunder and burn a village. Colonel Boileau and his assistant, with a small body of volunteers, traced him to a mud house on the edge of the jungle. The Deputy Commissioner rode ahead and called on Fazl Ali to surrender, but the latter replied by a shot, which wounded the Colonel, causing him to fall from his horse. The sowars thereupon fled, and Fazl Ali came out and cut off the wounded man's head. He escaped at the time, but was surprised and slain a few days after.

The Mutiny.

Colonel Boileau was succeeded by Mr. G. H. Lawrence, but soon after his arrival the Mutiny broke out. The troops at that time in the district comprised the 3rd Oudh Irregulars at Gonda, and the 1st, or Daly's, Irregular Horse, the 2nd Oudh Irregulars under Captain G. Boileau, and an Irregular Light Horse Battery under Lieutenant Bonham at Sikraura. The cavalry were known to be disaffected at the beginning of June, and the other corps were of very doubtful fidelity. Daly's Horse were commanded by Captain H. Forbes, who was then at Lucknow, and this officer, being anxious about the safety of his family, rode to Sikraura with a body of Sikhs and volunteers and escorted the ladies from that station and Gonda into Lucknow on the 9th. They were accompanied by Mr. Lawrence, who went in at the express orders of his uncle, the Chief Commissioner. Mr. Wingfield had already been in communication with the Raja of Balrampur, in whose loyalty he had complete confidence. On

the 9th of June the troops at Sikraura exhibited unmistakeable signs of mutiny, and the Commissioner accordingly rode to Gonda. The next morning the officers, who had been closely guarded by the troops, escaped and rode off towards Balrampur, with the exception of Lieutenant Bonham, who remained with the battery till persuaded by his men to fly; they supplied him with money and a horse, and pointed out a safe passage over the Ghagra. Three sergeants stayed with him, and the small party reached Lucknow in safety.

Gonda. The troops plundered the treasury and station of Sikraura and then marched off to join the regiment at Gonda. The latter still professed allegiance, although there was no question that they had been in treasonable correspondence with the troops at Sikraura and Fyzabad. Mr. C. B. Owen was in charge of the district, and with him was Lieutenant Clarke, assistant commissioner. Captain Miles was commanding the regiment, and the other officer was Lieutenant Campbell, the adjutant. On the evening of the 10th of June news came of the mutiny at Fyzabad and of the disaffection of the Bahraich detachment, and the Commissioner and Mr. Owen, with two officers of the 2nd Irregulars, set off for Balrampur. They arrived the next morning and were joined that day by the other officers from Gonda, where the troops were in open mutiny on the arrival of a letter bidding them bring the treasure to Sikraura. Raja Drigbijai Singh received the party of nineteen persons and several children in the most hospitable manner, but Mr. Wingfield, feeling that to remain would be a source of danger both to the raja and themselves, determined to leave. On the evening of the 12th they set out under an escort of the raja and 500 of his men towards Gorakhpur, reaching Bansi on the 14th of June, and after staying for some days with the friendly raja of that place, arrived at Gorakhpur on the 26th.

The taluqdars. After the escape of the officers the troops plundered and destroyed the civil station and then marched for Lucknow. The district relapsed into a state of anarchy, and the taluqdars from the first devoted their attention to strengthening their own position and weakening that of their neighbours. Raja Debi Bakhsh Singh of Gonda assumed the leading part in the

rebellion of the district, and his first care was to level to the ground all the forts in the possession of the Pandes. Raja Krishn Datt Ram fled to Lucknow, where he was soon followed by the Gonda Raja, who joined the Begam's forces with a thousand men. Shortly afterwards he was reinforced by four hundred of the Gauraha Bisens under the several heads of the clan, the only exception being Bhaiya Har Ratan Singh, of Majhgawan, who remained with the English officers throughout, escorting them from Balrampur to Gorakhpur and afterwards doing good service with Mr. Wingfield and others. Raja Drigbijai Singh maintained his allegiance to the last, and steadily refused to join the rebels or to recognize their rule: orders were given for the confiscation of his property, but no one was found strong enough to carry them out. The Rani of Tulsipur, whose husband was a prisoner in Lucknow, sided actively with the rebels and collected a large force to assist in the rebellion and strengthen her own position. Raja Riasat Ali Khan of Utraula expended his energies in renewing the old feuds with his cousins, the descendants of Mubarak Khan; and Ashraf Bakhsh Khan of Burhapara, after having harried his own pargana, joined Muhammad Hasan, once nazim of Gonda-Bahraich and now the rebel ruler of Gorakhpur, and carried his depredations into that district.

The Gonda Raja.

Raja Debi Bakhsh Singh had left behind him his nearest kinsman, Pirthipal Singh of Mahnon, in charge of the south of the district; but, owing to the independence of the various chieftains and the necessity of a strong hand to represent the central Government, the Begam sent back the raja from Lucknow with plenary powers over the whole country held by his ancestor, the famous Datt Singh. He fixed his camp at Lamati, a fort on the Chamnai on the borders of Mankapur and Mahadewa, where he was joined by levies amounting, it is said, to twenty thousand men. Here he remained inactive till the first news came of the advance of British troops.

The Gurkhas.

The earliest arrivals were the Gurkhas sent by Maharaja Sir Jang Bahadur, who occupied Gorakhpur on the 1st of August 1857; but they turned southwards to Azamgarh, and Gorakhpur was seized by Muhammad Hasan. The second Gurkha force,

together with Brigadier Macgregor, re-captured Gorakhpur on the 5th of January 1858, and the rebels retired westwards towards Gonda. The Gurkhas then marched to the Ghagra, crossed that stream, and advanced by way of Sultanpur to Lucknow, while Rowcroft remained behind with the *Pearl* naval brigade and two Nepalese regiments to guard Gorakhpur. On the 4th of March he approached this district from Amorha, taking up a position near the rebels' entrenched camp at Belwa, where were some 14,000 men under Mahdi Husain, the Rajas of Gonda and Charda, and others. The rebels, seeing the numerical inferiority of the British force, proceeded to the attack on the morning of the 5th. After a stubborn fight they were utterly routed, losing some 500 men and eight guns, and took refuge in the Belwa entrenchments. Rowcroft was unable to assault the position and had to wait for reinforcements; but on the 17th and 25th of April he fought two engagements, inflicting heavy loss upon the enemy. For some time, however, no force could be spared and Rowcroft retired to Captainganj. On the 9th of June he retook Amorha from Muhammad Hasan, and nine days later defeated him at Harha with heavy loss. He then moved to Hir in Basti, where he waited for the arrival of Sir Hope Grant. The advance from the south caused a great shrinkage in the followers of the Gonda Raja, and eventually he was left with some 1,500 men around him in his camp.

The autumn campaign.

By October Lord Clyde was in a position to commence the final campaign against the Oudh rebels. He had first to clear Baiswara, and this task was completed when Beni Madho Bakhsh was driven over the Ghagra on the 8th of December. But before this a strong British force had already entered the Gonda district. Towards the end of November Sir Hope Grant reached Fyzabad, where the garrison consisted of 4,300 men under Colonel Taylor, C.B. The rebels held Nawabganj and their guns covered the passage of the river at long range; but in spite of this a bridge was constructed and on the 27th the main body crossed and stormed the enemy's position, capturing one gun. Owing to the sandy nature of the country, progress was slow, but Grant pressed on, taking four more guns and a quantity of ammunition before returning to his camp near Nawabganj. On the 3rd of

December he marched to Bangaon and thence to Machhligaon, where he found a body of the enemy and three guns. He attacked them and took two of the guns, driving the rebels into the jungle. He then took the deserted fort of Bankasia belonging to the Gonda Raja, who had fled across the Rapti to Bhinga, leaving behind five guns and quantities of stores. On the 9th of December he reached Gonda and seven days later proceeded to Balrampur, where he was met by Raja Drigbijai Singh.

Jungle warfare.

While at Balrampur Sir Hope Grant heard that Bala Rao, the brother of the Nana, had taken refuge in the old fort of Tulsipur, where he had been joined by Muhammad Hasan. He thereupon summoned Rowcroft from Hir to march on Tulsipur and sent the 53rd to support him. After crossing the Burhi Rapti Rowcroft found the enemy and drove them in flight to the jungles, capturing two guns. In order to prevent the rebels from escaping into Gorakhpur Sir Hope Grant marched to Biskohar in Basti and thence to Dalhari on the Nepal frontier, where he waited till joined by Rowcroft. Hearing that Bala Rao had retreated to Kundakot along the edge of the forest, he advanced to within five miles of his position and halted, having in the meantime left Colonel Taylor with the 53rd and a horse battery on the other side of Tulsipur near the jungle. On the 4th of January 1859 he attacked the position, sending a small column to advance through the jungle westwards towards Kundakot, while he himself followed with the main body until he came up with the principal force of the rebels in thick cover. The advance party had already engaged them on the right and so diverted their attention, enabling the General to attack them on the flank; they at once bolted, abandoning their fifteen guns, and were chased through the jungle, the artillery keeping along the edge. On reaching open ground, Grant was joined by his right and left columns: Colonel Taylor had seen the enemy flying and had sent cavalry and guns after them, but the latter got into difficult ground and the rebels escaped. At this time news came of the amnesty, but it had little effect in this quarter, for Bala Rao had threatened to hang any one who attempted to escape. His force, however, was dispersed in several directions, and a large

body was driven into Nepal, where they were attacked and defeated by Colonel Kelly, Muhammad Hasan at last giving himself up.

The southern parganas.

The district was still, however, full of the rebel forces of the Gonda Raja. In April 1859 Sir Hope Grant, who had returned to Fyzabad, learnt that Colonel Simpson had reached Amorha, and that some 4,000 of the enemy were near Bankasia, and 1,800 more had broken south towards the Ghagra. Sending a reinforcement to Simpson, he divided his own force, directing one body to the jungles round Rampur Thana, and the other to Bankasia, while he himself followed along the river bank. The rebel troops, consisting of the Cawnpore regiments under Gajadhar Singh, had made a dash on Sikraura, but here they were repelled by Colonel Walker. They retired to Bangaon, where they were surrounded, the fort being captured, Gajadhar and 150 men killed, while the rest were dispersed. Sir Hope Grant then proceeded to Balrampur, which he reached on the 7th of May. Here he received letters from Bala Rao and the Nana, who were encamped at the Serwa Pass; the former professed submission, but the Nana remained defiant. On the 10th he marched to Biskohar, while Brigadier Pinkney was ordered to Tulsipur. On the 21st he entered the pass and was attacked, but taking the enemy in flank he captured their two guns and drove them across the hills. The rebel forces were thus finally broken up and but few escaped from the Nepalese.

Rewards.

With this action the Mutiny came to an end and civil administration was restored throughout the district. The Rani of Tulsipur and the Raja of Gonda never surrendered, and their estates were confiscated and bestowed on the Raja of Balrampur and Maharaja Man Singh. The Burhapara property of Ashraf Bakhsh Singh was also confiscated on account of his persistent rebellion and given to Bhaiya Har Ratan Singh of Majhgawan. The other taluqdars were restored to their ancestral estates and allowed to engage for all the villages they had held prior to annexation. A small military force was maintained at Gonda for a few years, but the cantonments were ultimately abandoned in 1864.

The subsequent history of the district has been uneventful and is merely a record of peaceful development. Both cultivation and population have increased enormously, and the district is now in a more prosperous state than at any previous periods. The history and evolution of the various branches of administration has already been given in the preceding chapters, as well as the account of the successive assessments of the land revenue, and the calamities, in the shape of drought and famines, that have from time to time visited the district. Mention has been made, too, of the rise or decline of the principal families and their estates, of the improvement in the condition of the people, and of the general economic progress effected during the past half century.

Subsequent history.

GAZETTEER

OF

GONDA.

DIRECTORY.

GAZETTEER

OF

GONDA.

DIRECTORY.

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ANDHIARI, *Pargana* MANKAPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A small village in the north of the pargana, situated in latitude 27° 5′ north and longitude 82° 14′ east, at a distance of some five miles from Mankapur on the road from Nawabganj to Utraula and a mile north of the bridge over the Manwar river. Andhiari itself is of no importance, save for the fact that it gives its name to a police station. The latter is, however, actually situated within the limits of the large village of Dhuswa, which stretches for some distance west of the road. The thana is by the side of the road, and opposite is a good camping ground in a fine grove of *mahua* trees. Dhuswa is a scattered village, covering a wide area, 2,483 acres in all. It contained at the last census a population of 2,643 souls, of whom 2,299 were Hindus, chiefly Brahmans and Kayasths. There is a recently-built temple of Mahadeo here erected on the site of one that had been destroyed in former times, and a large tank constructed as a famine relief work in 1897. The village is assessed at a revenue of Rs. 1,850, and is the property of the Raja of Mankapur. Andhiari itself, also owned by the Raja, contained but 377 persons.

ASOKPUR, *Pargana* MAHADEWA, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A village lying in latitude 27° 0′ north and longitude 82° 7′ east, on the east side of the main road from Gonda to Fyzabad, at a distance of three miles north of Wazirganj. The place is very small and consists of a few hamlets, of which the aggregate population in 1901 was only 393, mainly Brahmans. There is an upper primary school here, but no market. Asokpur is chiefly remarkable for its archæological remains described by General Cunningham.* There was an old temple of Asoknath Mahadeo here, and this was replaced by the tomb of Hatila Pir, the nephew of Saiyid Salar, who is said to have been killed in the

* A. S. N. I., I, 327.

assault on the temple. The tomb is a low domed building, twenty feet square and built of large bricks. The temple was traditionally built by Suhel Dal, the opponent of Saiyid Salar, and his city of Asokpur is said to have extended as far as Domariadih, where there are other large brick-strewn mounds. A fair still takes place here annually in Jeth in honour of the fallen saint and is attended by some 6,500 persons.

ATA, *vide* PARASPUR.

BABHNAN, *Pargana* BABHNIPAIR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A small village on the extreme eastern border of the pargana and district, lying in latitude 26° 57′ north and longitude 82° 30′ east. It only deserves mention as giving its name to a railway station on the Bengal and North-Western main line, but this is actually situated outside the village and within the Basti district. From the station a road runs north through Babhnan to Qasba in Burhapara. Babhnan is composed of five small hamlets. It contained at the last census a population of 265 persons, mainly of the Kewat caste. Adjoining it on the south-west is Babhni, another small village, which, with Pair, gives its name to the pargana. This, too, has a very small population, amounting to 247 in all in 1901, and is owned by Rajput pattidars.

BABHNIPAIR *Pargana, Tahsil* UTRAULA.

This small pargana lies in the extreme south of the tahsil, being bounded on the south and east by the Basti district, on the west by pargana Mankapur, and on the north by Burhapara, from which it is separated by the Bisuhi river. It comprises a long and narrow strip of country, having a greatest length of sixteen miles and an extreme breadth of seven miles from north to south. Along the Bisuhi there is a narrow belt of jungle, which in former days was very much more extensive and contained a considerable proportion of *sál* trees. This was apportioned as jungle grants, and much of it has since been brought under the plough. The land near the river stands high and the soil is generally loam, producing excellent crops of wheat in the

rabi harvest. The country slopes gradually from the north downwards and the soil becomes heavier. In the central portion of the pargana it is a firm loam well adapted for crops at both harvests. On the south-east there is a further fall in the surface, and the soil develops into a stiff clay, in which only the fields immediately around the hamlets bear rabi crops, the rest being exclusively reserved for late rice. In the western end of the pargana, towards the Tikri forest, the level is higher and the soil is generally light. Through the centre of the pargana runs a chain of swamps, several of them being of considerable size; the largest is the great Zirabhari jhil in the west, which extends from the southern border to within a short distance of Maskinwan station. In places it is surrounded by high, uneven banks, but elsewhere the water is almost on a level with the fields, so that in wet years there is a considerable danger of inundation. As a whole, the tract is of uniformly good quality, excepting one or two villages in the neighbourhood of the forest. Even where the soil is lightest the proportion of sand is never so great as to render cultivation impossible. On the other hand, the pargana is not so fertile in character as Burhapara.

The total area of the pargana is 42,436 acres or 66·3 square miles. At the first regular settlement 26,882 acres or 63 per cent. were cultivated, while since that time there has been a considerable extension of the area under the plough. At the last assessment it had risen to 29,415 acres, while in 1904 it was 30,196 acres or 71·15 per cent. Of the remaining area 7,482 acres, including 966 acres under groves, were classed as culturable; the bulk of this was waste that has never been reclaimed, and most of the remainder old fallow of an inferior character. The only remaining land which can profitably be cultivated lies in the forest tract and a few backward villages along the Bisuhi. The barren area was 4,758 acres, but practically the whole of this was either under water or occupied by sites and roads. The pargana is amply supplied with means of irrigation. Most villages possess a sufficient number of wells or tanks, and unprotected wells can be readily dug, the water level being generally not more than 15 feet below the surface. The number of wells has largely increased since the first regular settlement,

and they now supply almost two-thirds of the irrigated area. The area sown in the rabi and kharif harvests is approximately equal, though the latter slightly predominates. The double-cropped area is large and has greatly increased of late years: in 1904 it amounted to 14,005 acres or over 40 per cent. of the cultivation. The chief staples are rice, sugarcane, *kodon*, and maize in the kharif, and wheat, peas, barley, and gram in the rabi. There is also a considerable area under oilseeds and poppy. A noticeable feature is the increased area devoted in recent years to the more valuable crops.

The cultivation is generally of a fair character. Low caste tenants largely preponderate, and among them are numbers of Kurmis and Ahirs. After them come Musalmans, Brahmans, and Muraos. The holdings are, as a rule, very small, a fact which tends to more careful tillage. Almost the whole area held by tenants is under cash rents, and at the last settlement only 50 acres were grain-rented. An unusually large proportion, however, was held by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht*, these together amounting to 13,061 acres. Under-proprietors held 1,117 acres, occupancy tenants 101 acres, and 203 acres were nominally rented. The cash rate averaged Rs. 5·55 per acre, ranging from Rs. 5·81 in the case of Kurmis to Rs. 3·64 paid by the few Rajput tenants. The rate for Brahmans was above the general average, and almost equal to that of low caste tenants.

The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement amounted to Rs. 21,586. This was raised to Rs. 38,480 at the regular assessment, while at the last revision the final demand was fixed at Rs. 48,145, the initial revenue being Rs. 45,125. This is the net demand, for Rs. 9,865 are nominally assessed on the fee-simple grants and other revenue-free land. The actual enhancement amounted to 27·72 per cent., giving an initial incidence of Re. 1·86 per acre of cultivation.

The population of the pargana at the first Oudh census of 1869 numbered 31,029 persons. This rose to 36,405 in 1881, and to 45,450 ten years later. The last enumeration of 1901 showed a slight decline, the total being 44,717 persons, of whom 4,026 were Musalmans. The pargana contains 141 villages, but none of these are of any size, only two, Birpur and

Maharajganj, possessing over 1,000 inhabitants. The sole place of any importance is Chhapia, which is separately mentioned. Pair and Babhni, the places from which the pargana takes its name, are quite insignificant villages.

The pargana is traversed from east to west by the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, on which there are stations at Babhnan and Chhapia. This formed till recently almost the sole means of communication, as the only road was that from Nawabganj to Maskinwan and Chandradipghat in the extreme western corner, till the construction of the new road from Babhnan to Qasba in Burhapura. More roads are undoubtedly needed, and especially one from Babhnan to Maskinwan along the railway in order to afford access to the neighbouring markets.

The history of the pargana is practically identical with that of the Kalhans family of Babhnipair, which has already been given in chapter III. It was known as a pargana in the days of Akbar and was then held by Rajputs, undoubtedly of the Kalhans clan. Their property was once very extensive, and included Burhapara, Rasulpur Ghaus, and part of Mankapur. The first was seized by the Utraula Pathans under Alawal Khan, and Rasulpur passed into the hands of the Raja of Bansi. The fall of the Babhnipair estate was largely due to the fact that nearly all the villages were given to Brahmans in *birt*, though their rights were reduced to a minimum: in grain-rented lands they retained only one-tenth of the produce, while in the case of money rents they obtained no drawback at all; sometimes, too, their rights were withdrawn and replaced by small plots of rent-free *sir*. But, owing to their slovenly habits and the increase in their numbers, the property became greatly depreciated, and the process was hastened by the mismanagement of the owner. It would seem from the dates of the numerous *birt* deeds that by the beginning of the nineteenth century the rajas had alienated their zamindari villages excepting the *khalsa* lands held as *nankar*. The alienation was so far complete that the summary settlement of 1856 was made with the *birtias;* though after the Mutiny the villages were included in the taluqdari *sanad*.

In 1800 the revenue of the pargana was only Rs. 7,723, but in two years it rose to Rs. 12,744. This appears to have been

excessive, for during the next fifteen years it remained at about Rs. 8,000. In 1818 it again rose to Rs. 10,520 and continued to increase, reaching Rs. 16,000 between 1821 and 1826, and Rs. 20,000 from 1829 to 1836. In 1837 Darshan Singh managed to collect Rs. 27,558, but the pargana never recovered from this extortion till annexation; he obtained Rs. 20,991 in 1842, but the average receipts from 1838 to 1856 were only Rs. 14,000. At annexation only 17,800 acres were under the plough, but during the ensuing years of peaceful prosperity the increase was very rapid.

At the present time the 141 villages of the pargana are divided into 231 mahals. Of the latter, nine are owned by taluqdars, three being sub-settled; eleven in single, and 30 in joint, zamindari tenure; five are pattidari, 14 are fee-simple grants, and 162 are sub-settled. Of the taluqdars, the Raja of Payagpur in Bahraich owns the single village of Pair; one small village belongs to the Pande taluqdar of Ramnagar; one is still retained by the Raja of Babhnipair, and six stand in the name of his wife, Rani Jairaj Kunwar. The rest of his sub-settled property was sold to Munshi Prag Narain, of Lucknow, who shares the single zamindari villages with the wealthy mahant of Chhapia. Altogether 94 villages are owned by Banias, 14 each by Rajputs and Brahmans, eight by Musalmans, six by Kayasths, three by Goshains, one by Kurmis, and one is the property of Government. The *birtias* are for the most part in reduced circumstances, and many have been compelled to sell their rights. Two-thirds of the *birt* area is held on the *dahyak* or *chaharam* tenure, that is to say, the payment of twice the revenue less 10 or 25 per cent. In the rest there are sub-settlement holders between the *birtias* and the superior proprietors, paying the revenue and a proportion ranging from 10 to 50 per cent. At the last settlement an endeavour was made to adjust the revenue so as to leave the *birtias* a full 25 per cent., and a somewhat larger allowance was made in the case of excessively large communities.

BALRAMPUR, *Pargana* BALRAMPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

The capital of the pargana and the head-quarters of the great Balrampur estate is a considerable town lying in latitude

27° 26′ north and longitude 82° 11′ east, on the north banks of the Suwawan river and about two miles south of the Rapti. It is connected with Gonda by a metalled road and also by the railway, which passes to the west of the town, the station being some two miles distant and to the south of the Suwawan. Unmetalled roads run to Ikauna, Srinagar, Utraula, Tulsipur, and Chaudhridih. The site is a little raised to the north and slopes into the swamps along the Suwawan; during the rains, owing to the overflow of that river and the Rapti, the place is almost surrounded by water, which covers all but a few high spots.

The town is now the largest in the district. Its population in 1869 numbered 13,828, but this fell to 12,811 in 1881. Since that year it has grown rapidly, as in 1891 the total was 14,849, while at the last census it had increased to 16,723, of whom 8,555 were males and 8,168 females. Classified according to religions, there were 10,332 Hindus, 6,261 Musalmans, 25 Christians, and five Sikhs. The town is well built, and chiefly owes its prosperity to the energy of Maharaja Sir Drigbijai Singh. It is of no great antiquity, for the original seat of the Balrampur rajas was in the little village of Dhusahi, which adjoins Balrampur on the west. The old bazar was a little, narrow street running down to the Suwawan, but this was replaced by the late Maharaja by two good cross streets lined with rows of shops. Markets are held here daily and a considerable trade is carried on, chiefly in rice and other grain from the surrounding country. A new bazar has recently been erected near the railway station, and this relieves the congestion in the more densely populated quarters. In former days Balrampur is said to have been a considerable centre of trade with Nepal, but this was stopped through the policy of Sir Jang Bahadur, the Prime Minister, who endeavoured to confine all dealings to his own markets owing to the large revenue he derived from bazar fees. The manufactures are of no great importance, and include coarse cotton cloth, blankets and felts, knives, and baskets made of cane from the banks of the Kuwana. Balrampur contains a police station, a post-office, an anglo-vernacular school with a boarding house attached, a dispensary and a zenana hospital, a large poorhouse and an institution named the MacDonnell Orphanage, so

called after the Lieutenant-Governor who opened it. The school, known as the Lyall collegiate school, was erected by Sir Drigbijai Singh at a cost of Rs. 60,000, and the same Maharaja built the hospitals and poorhouse. The zenana hospital was erected in 1891 and opened by Sir Auckland Colvin in the following year. Three primary schools for boys are aided by the municipality: one is a mission school, and the others are known as the Ahmadia and Purania Tal schools.

The principal edifice in the place is the palace of the Maharaja, an imposing pile of buildings enclosing a large court, on one side of which are the dwelling houses and offices and on another the stables. Adjoining the palace on the west is a fine house of three storeys in the Italian style. This was built by one Moti Gir, Goshain, a wealthy merchant. The Goshains are numerous in this part of the country, and in former days are said to have been extensively engaged in smuggling jewels from Nepal. Moti Gir is said on one occasion to have been overtaken by the soldiers of the Nepalese authorities, and in order to avoid detection to have discharged into the air two hundred matchlocks full of pearls, a performance which illustrates both the extent and the risk of this form of traffic. The house has since been given up to the Balrampur estate and is used as a printing press. Another handsome building is the mausoleum containing the statue of Maharaja Sir Drigbijai Singh. This was completed in 1888, when the statue was unveiled by the Lieutenant-Governor. The building, which is beautifully carved by Benares artists, cost over a lakh and a half of rupees, part of this sum being defrayed by the voluntary subscriptions of tenants and lessees of the estate. The same Maharaja began the construction of the temple at Bijlipur, which was completed in 1889. This village lies about a mile and a half to the north of the town, and the temple replaced a small brick structure dedicated to Bijleshwari Debi. A considerable fair takes place here on the full moon of Asarh and is attended by some 10,000 persons. He also laid out the Anand Bagh, a well-kept public garden, which contains a small menagerie.

Balrampur has been administered as a municipality since the 30th of June 1871. The board consists of twelve members,

of whom nine are elected and three appointed by Government. The post of chairman is taken by the Maharaja. The income is chiefly derived from a tax on professions and trades and the municipal cattle-pound and slaughter-house. The details of receipts and expenditure since 1891 will be found in the appendix.* There is a bench of three honorary magistrates, who dispose of petty cases occurring within municipal limits. The Maharaja himself exercises second class powers over a large area, as mentioned in chapter IV. The town is cleaned and well drained, but it owes its prosperity chiefly to the influence of the family with which its name is associated and to the agents who were in charge of the estate during the minority of the present Maharaja.

BALRAMPUR *Pargana, Tahsil* UTRAULA.

This large pargana lies in the north of the district and consists of a wide stretch of country extending from the Bahraich boundary on the west to that of Basti on the east. To the east the boundary is formed partly by the Kuwana, which separates it from pargana Gonda, partly by the western border of pargana Utraula, and partly by the Rapti river, which divides the eastern portion of Balrampur from Utraula. To the north the pargana marches with Tulsipur throughout. The tract falls naturally into three divisions, one lying between the Kuwana and Rapti, forming the south-west portion; a second comprising the country between the Rapti and the Burhi Rapti, a long strip extending across the whole breadth of the district and widening towards the Basti frontier; while the third is that between the Burhi Rapti and the Tulsipur border, forming the northern and north-western portion, for in the east the Burhi Rapti itself forms the boundary.

The southern portion, in which lies the town of Balrampur, is barely distinguishable from the rest of the *uparhar* tract which forms the centre of the district. The soil is generally a fair loam, but sparsely populated and not under careful cultivation. The Kuwana is fringed by dense cane-brakes, and beyond this is a narrow belt of forests, consisting generally of *sál* trees and full of wild animals. This is succeeded by a lowlying plain, covered with *khar* grass and containing patches of inferior cultivation,

* Appendix, table XVI.

which graduate into the more fully tilled villages further north. Through the centre of this tract runs the Suwawan river, flowing from north-east to south-west in a very irregular and ill-defined course. The Rapti generally overflows its banks in the rains and floods the lowlands as far south as the Suwawan, which then becomes a considerable river. There are a few jhils in this tract, especially the large Chandi Tal to the east of Balrampur. The soil is in most places an alluvial loam of great richness, which is easily worked, and neither receives nor seems to require much manure; there is, however, a tendency for the crops to be choked by a luxuriant growth of weeds. Owing to its dampness it is considered unhealthy, and the density of the population is below that of the rest of the district. The holdings are consequently large, and the style of cultivation is inclined to be somewhat slovenly.

The central strip contains a few good villages, but generally suffers from the annual floods of both rivers, which in many places join during the rains. Higher at both extremities, the centre of this division is occupied by an extensive tract of grass waste, which is for months under water and can only be reclaimed by the erection of expensive embankments. The soil and cultivation generally resemble those of the southern portion.

The northern tract possesses a fine clay soil and is well cultivated. It closely resembles the ordinary *tarai* country found at the foot of the hills, and its most striking feature is the number of hill torrents by which it is intersected. These are generally shallow streams flowing in a southerly direction, and at their junction with the Burhi Rapti running level with the surrounding fields. At the end of the hot weather and in the rains they are subject to sudden flushes, which inundate the country on their banks and frequently cover the neighbouring fields with a deposit of sand and gravel. In places, however, this sand is varied by a layer of rich clay, which in a short time amply repays cultivation. The result of this fluvial action is that the whole tract is being gradually raised, and the lowlands, which formerly produced fine rice, are being converted into wheat and gram fields; so that the proportion of the rabi to the kharif crops is being constantly changed to the advantage of the former.

The rivers and streams of this portion of the pargana are too numerous to admit of detailed mention. The chief are, from west to east, the Baluhi, Dundra, Kanchi, Kharjhar, Karwi, Kakrala, and Siria, the last two forming the boundary of the pargana for a considerable distance.

The total area at the first regular settlement was 247,354 acres. This was subsequently increased by the addition of a few villages transferred from pargana Ikauna in Bahraich, and at the present time the area is 271,016 acres or 423·4 square miles. The proportion cultivated has largely increased of late years, though it has always been high since annexation. In 1864 it amounted to 73 per cent., and in 1904 it was 203,070 acres or 75 per cent. of the whole, while no less than 95,137 acres bore a double crop. Of the remaining area 26,220 acres were classed as barren, but of this all save 639 acres was either under water or occupied by sites, roads, and the like; 41,726 acres were returned as culturable, including 4,509 acres under groves. This culturable waste consists for the most part of jungle land, which has never been brought under the plough, or of old fallow, much of which is comparatively worthless. The irrigated area is small, as in most parts of the pargana no artificial irrigation is required owing to the natural moisture in the soil and the almost invariable winter rains. Small unprotected wells can be made at an insignificant cost, but are used for poppy and other garden crops only. In the southern division, however, irrigation from tanks is frequently practised. The rabi area generally exceeds that sown in the kharif, but to no great extent. The chief kharif staple is rice, most of this being of the late variety and of a fine quality; there is also a very large area under maize, which has rapidly grown in favour of late years, a fair amount of *kodon*, *urd*, and *arhar*, but hardly any sugarcane. In the rabi, wheat largely predominates; it is of an excellent quality, though often grown on *dofasli* land and rarely irrigated. Next in importance come linseed, gram, *masúr*, peas, and barley; *lahi* or rape, too, is extensively grown and, while requiring but little attention, is a very valuable crop.

The cultivation is not usually of a high class, and the small proportion of the population to the total area, combined with the

natural productiveness of the soil, leads to the practice of roughly breaking up as much land as possible and sowing it with inferior grains. The consequence is not only that high rents are rare, but that cash rents are seldom to be found at all, except for the few highly manured fields round the homestead, which are devoted to garden crops. The system of grain rents is partly due to the policy of the Balrampur estate and partly to the precarious nature of the tract. The method adopted is ordinarily a division of the grain heap, after a deduction of one-sixth for the labourer, between the representatives of the landlord and the tenant. The cultivators are chiefly Kurmis, Brahmans, Ahirs, and Koris. In the case of high caste tenants practically all the cultivation is done by hired labour, often on the *sawak* system described in chapter III.

The pargana contains 311 villages divided into 343 mahals. Of the latter 332 are owned by the Maharaja of Balrampur, 26 of these being sub-settled, while the remaining eleven, comprising nine villages, with an area of 3,136 acres, are held in pattidari tenure, the owners being for the most part Kayasths belonging to the family of hereditary qanungos of the pargana, who obtained a grant of seven villages revenue-free prior to annexation; the *muafi* was continued after annexation for a single lifetime and then resumed. One village belongs to Brahmans. All the Balrampur villages are held on a permanent settlement, and consequently there has been but little alteration in the revenue. This amounted at the summary assessment to Rs. 1,19,547, and was raised at the regular settlement to Rs. 2,37,252. By the time of the last settlement the revenue had been reduced, owing to land acquisition by the railway and other causes, to Rs. 2,33,166, but this was increased by Rs. 435, representing the enhancement on the temporarily settled villages. The latter include the two villages of Sikharpur and Duaria, transferred from Ikauna, and seven villages in the east and south-south-east of the district, known as Bansidila, Parsia, Gondipur, Deorawan, Seoraha, Patauhan Kot, and Mahadeo Hariharnagar.

The population of the pargana at the first census of 1869 numbered 160,237 souls. This rose in 1881 to 178,336 and at the following census to 198,357. The last enumeration of 1901

showed a slight decline, the total number of inhabitants being 195,262. Of these, 163,215 were Hindus, 31,965 Musalmans, and 82 of other religions, chiefly Sikhs and Christians. Besides the municipal town of Balrampur there are few villages of any size or importance. Mathura Bazar on the western border and Lalia, which possesses a police station, have been separately mentioned, as also has the ancient site of Sahet Mahet. Excepting Mathura, no village has a population of 2,000 persons, and the largest consist merely of collections of scattered hamlets.

Means of communication are generally poor, owing to the nature of the country. The centre of the pargana is traversed from south-west to north-east by the railway from Gonda to Tulsipur and Uska Bazar, with stations at Balrampur and Kawapur. Balrampur is also connected with Gonda by a metalled road, but apart from this the roads are few and of a poor quality. Through Balrampur runs that from Ikauna to Utraula, while others run from Balrampur to Srinagar, to Tulsipur, and to Lalia and Chaudhridih on the north. The latter is joined on the northern border by the road from Khargupur, Ikauna, and Mathura. In the east there are the roads leading from Utraula to Tulsipur and Pachperwa, but both of these are very difficult during the rains. The Rapti is crossed by several ferries, a list of which will be found in the appendix.

Little is known of the early history of the pargana. Sahet Mahet was probably the capital of a large kingdom, but after its decline the tract seems to have been held by Bhars and Tharus or else by the Doms. The family history of the Janwars states that, when the founders of the Balrampur house first established their supremacy, they dispossessed two Rajput families, but of the latter nothing is known. Since that time the history of the pargana has been identical with that of the Rajas of Balrampur, an account of whom has already been given.

The fiscal history of the pargana has been preserved in the old qanungos' records. These are extant from 1799 onwards, and illustrate in a remarkable degree the rapid progress effected under the powerful rule of the Janwar chieftains. In the first year the government demand was Rs. 48,247, and this rose to Rs. 61,000 ten years later, but fell again after annual fluctuations to

Rs. 30,291 in 1816. After this it rose steadily till 1833, when the demand was Rs. 1,67,925; this fell in 1837 to Rs. 89,133, but three years later again rose to Rs. 1,43,290. It remained at this figure or thereabouts till annexation, except in the year when Darshan Singh had expelled the Balrampur raja and collected the extraordinary sum of Rs. 2,88,823, which probably represented not only the whole rents but also the entire agricultural stock of the pargana.

BEGAMGANJ, *Pargana* DIGSIR, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

This large village, properly known as Umri Begamganj, lies in the south-west of the pargana, in latitude 26° 55′ north and longitude 81° 51′ east, at a distance of some fifteen miles south of Gonda, with which it is connected by an unmetalled road. Along the western boundary of the village flows the Kundwa nadi, which is here joined by the Bilai; on its banks stands the bazar of Begamganj, founded in the days when Gonda was included in the jagir of the Bahu Begam. The main site stands on the road about a mile to the south. The village covers an area of 3,281 acres, and is composed of a number of small hamlets. It contained at the last census a population of 3,969 persons, of whom 272 were Musalmans. A large number of the inhabitants are Kalhans Rajputs, who hold subordinate rights in the soil, the superior proprietor being the Maharaja of Ajodhya. The revenue is Rs. 4,350. Begamganj possesses a post-office, a bazar in which markets are held twice a week, and a lower primary school. The only industry is cotton printing, which is still carried on to some extent by the inhabitants. The place was formerly of some importance, as in the early days of British rule it was the head-quarters of the tahsil, but this was removed to Tarabganj in 1876 in consequence of the encroachments of the Ghagra and the undermining of the site.

BIDIANAGAR, *Pargana* MANKAPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A village on the western borders of the pargana, in latitude 27° 6′ north and longitude 82° 7′ east, at a distance of some nine miles east of Gonda. It is chiefly of importance as possessing a railway station on the Bengal and North-Western main

line, connected with the metalled road from Gonda to Nawabganj by a small branch joining the latter at Dumariadih and crossing the road from Darzi-ka-Kuan to Andhiari. The village contained at the last census a population of 709 souls, of whom 75 were Musalmans, while Brahmans form the bulk of the Hindu inhabitants. It contains a bazar, in which markets are held daily, and a small school. The village lands cover 450 acres and are assessed at Rs. 382; the proprietor is Thakur Jagat Pal Singh, a member of the Bisen clan and a descendant of Bhaiya Indarjit Singh, a younger son of Raja Lachhman Singh, of Gonda. These Bisens are said to have formerly held a far larger estate, but the property is still of fair size and consists of seven villages and seven mahals in Mankapur and one mahal in Gonda.

BIRPUR, *Pargana* BABHNIPAIR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A small village in the north of the pargana, lying in latitude 26° 59′ north and longitude 82° 27′ east, some three miles east of the Chhapia station of the Bengal and North-Western main line and two miles south of the Bisuhi. It lies off the road and is only accessible by rough village cart tracks. It deserves mention as possessing a police station, a post-office, and a cattle pound. The village itself is insignificant. At the last census it contained 1,037 inhabitants, of whom 160 were Musalmans. It covers an area of 902 acres, but much of this is uncultivated, especially on the north towards the river. The revenue is Rs. 216, and the proprietors of the village are Rajput pattidars.

BIRPUR KATRA, *vide* KATRA.

BURHAPARA *Pargana, Tahsil* UTRAULA.

This pargana lies in the south of the tahsil and on the eastern borders of the district. It comprises a triangular tract of country bounded on the north and east by the Kuwana river, which separates it from the Basti district, on the west by Sadullahnagar, and on the south by Babhnipair, the dividing line being the Bisuhi. The latter river is joined by a small tributary stream, which rises in Sadullahnagar and flows through the south-western corner. The west and central portions of the

pargana consist of a level plain broken only by jhils and shallow depressions; it is well cultivated, thickly inhabited, and adorned by clumps of fine *mahua* trees. On the east and south, towards the river, the surface gradually rises, and the strong clay of the lower levels gives place to a loam of lighter quality. The high bank extends for a distance varying from one to three miles from the rivers, and in their neighbourhood the ground is uneven and irregular, being frequently broken by ravines and small drainage channels. Till within recent times this part was covered with a continuous belt of jungle abounding in wild animals but producing little valuable timber. To ensure its reclamation, it was either sold outright to zamindars or granted revenue-free for a term of years on condition of a certain proportion being brought under the plough. This stipulation has been for the most part fulfilled, and the only land that remains is either too uneven or too sandy to be worth reclaiming.

The central or *matiyar* tract, which includes the bulk of the villages, is of a high natural fertility, the soil being rich and retentive of moisture, while it rarely degenerates into a stiff clay. Water is obtained at a distance of twelve or thirteen feet from the surface, and unprotected wells can easily be constructed. In a few villages there are patches of *reh*, but these are of no great extent. The cultivation is fully established and the pargana is highly developed, the crops being of a good quality. Along the rivers the soil is well adapted for producing rabi crops, but is too light for late rice, and the outturn of sugarcane is said to be smaller. In places there is an excess of sand in the soil, rendering the construction of wells difficult.

At annexation the pargana was in a wretched state owing to recent local disturbances, but at the present time it is one of the most prosperous and highly cultivated tracts in the district. The total area is 49,347 acres or 77 square miles. At the first regular settlement 24,955 acres or 50 per cent. was under the plough, while thirty years later it amounted to 33,814 acres or nearly 70 per cent., a figure which was but little in excess of the average for the twelve years preceding the assessment. Since the settlement there has been a further increase, and in 1904 the cultivated area was 35,888 acres or over 72 per cent., while

15,751 acres bore a double crop. Of the remainder, 9,167 acres, including 688 acres under groves, were classed as culturable, most of this consisting of inferior waste and old fallow, and 4,292 acres were returned as barren, though of this all save 404 acres was either under water or occupied by roads and sites. The irrigated area is large and in ordinary years amounts to nearly two-thirds of the total cultivation. Wells form the chief source of supply, and the ease with which they can be constructed in most villages renders the pargana comparatively secure in times of drought. The kharif is the more important harvest and rice is the principal crop; there is also a large amount of *arhar* and a fair proportion of sugarcane. In the rabi wheat takes the lead, followed by gram and peas, oilseeds and poppy, the last doing well in all parts of the pargana.

Burhapara is also fortunate in its cultivators, as at the last settlement over 92 per cent. of the tenant-held land was in the hands of low caste cultivators. The chief are Kurmis, Muraos, Ahirs, and Musalmans. About 64 per cent. of the land was held by ordinary tenants at cash rates, 27 per cent. was cultivated by the proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht,* less than 6 per cent. was grain-rented, 3 per cent. was in the hands of under-proprietors, and small areas were held by occupancy tenants or on nominal rents. Proprietary cultivation is most extensive in the villages of the poorest coparcenary bodies. The cash rates averaged Rs. 4·8 for the whole pargana and presented but little variations; Ahirs and Kurmis pay the highest rents, and Rajputs the lowest, but the amount of land held by them is very small.

The revenue demand at the summary settlement was only Rs. 6,761, a low figure, which was necessitated by the state of the pargana at that time. At the regular assessment, however, it was raised to Rs. 26,370, the cultivated area having increased nearly fourfold. At the last assessment an enhancement of over 41 per cent. was taken, the net final demand being Rs. 45,610, which gave an incidence of Re. 1·59 per acre of cultivation. This excludes the nominal revenue on the grants and other non-assessable land, which amounts to Rs. 15,400, fixed for the purposes of calculating cesses.

The progress of the revenue is also illustrated by the increase in the population. In 1869 this amounted to 20,541 persons; in 1881 it had risen to 31,196, and ten years later to 44,553. At the last census there was a still further increase, the total being 48,345, of whom 9,671 were Musalmans. The pargana contains 128 villages, but none of these are of any great importance; several, such as the jungle grants of Cooknagar, Keshonagar, and Gharighat, contain very large populations, but consist merely of an aggregation of scattered hamlets, the first having over 80 sites. The principal place is Qasba, adjoining which is the village of Babhanjot.

Means of communication are still rather poor, though they have recently been improved by the construction of the road running south from Qasba to Babhnan station. Through the north-west of the pargana runs the road from Nawabganj and Maskinwan to Qasba and Chandradipghat, and from this a branch takes off near Qasba and leads to Sadullahnagar. The tract is somewhat isolated and difficult of access, so that the cultivators have no ready means of disposing of their produce. There are no manufactures, except that of coarse cotton cloth, and no local markets of any importance.

In early times the pargana appears to have been held by Bhars and Tharus and to have consisted chiefly of jungle. It passed under the sway of the great Kalhans rajas of Khurasa and afterwards came into the hands of the Raja of Babhnipair. It was then seized by Alawal Khan, of the Utraula house, and till annexation remained a tappa of pargana Utraula. Alawal Khan, it is said, was the elder son, but left the title of raja to his younger brother, Adam Khan, and took up his position at Qasba, where he built a fort. His five sons divided the property between them, but three died without offspring and two of their shares were taken by the elder and one by the younger survivors. The pargana remained divided into the eastern three-fifths and the western two-fifths till annexation, but its history is practically identical with that of Utraula. At the beginning of the nineteenth century Rajab Ali Khan and Ali Raza Khan, the owners of the western portion, attained considerable wealth, it is said, by the discovery of a large buried

treasure. They built the fine house at Qasba, which has been allowed to fall into ruins by their impoverished descendants. The last owner of the eastern portion was Ashraf Bakhsh Khan, noted as a soldier and scholar, and a leading spirit in all the disputes with the government officials.

In his days the pargana had attained considerable prosperity. The old records show that in 1794 the revenue was Rs. 2,045, and within ten years had risen to Rs. 6,579. A few bad seasons caused a temporary fall, but from 1818 the rise was steady, and in 1852 the demand stood at Rs. 10,157. In 1854 Rai Sadhan Lal, a dependant of Raja Krishn Datt Ram, obtained the nizamat of Gonda-Bahraich, and sent Gopal Tiwari as tahsildar to Burhapara. This man had an old quarrel with Ashraf Bakhsh Khan, and seizing his opportunity he devastated the whole of his estate, burning the villages, cutting the crops, and carrying off the cattle. Ashraf Bakhsh retired to the jungles and vented his wrath in a similar manner on the villages of other proprietors. The inhabitants fled in numbers to the English district of Basti, and in 1855 the revenue fell to only Rs. 1,710. At annexation Gopal Tiwari withdrew his forces, his prisoners escaped from the fort at Dhanepur, the cultivators returned, and Ashraf Bakhsh engaged for his estate of 41 villages, the rest of the pargana being settled with the *birtias.* By the end of 1856 as much as 5,708 acres were under cultivation, and the demand was fixed at Rs. 6,744.

During the Mutiny Ashraf Bakhsh sided with the rebels and became one of the favourite officers of Muhammad Hasan, the rebel nazim of Gorakhpur. His estate was confiscated and assigned to Raja Har Ratan Singh, of Majhgawan in Mahadewa. Some villages were also given to Har Narain Singh, the son of the dispossessed Raja of Ikauṇa in Bahraich, whose lands were confiscated for rebellion and given to the Raja-i-Rajgan of Kapurthala.

The 128 villages of the pargana are demarcated as 131 mahals: of the latter 28 are owned by taluqdars, six being sub-settled; eleven are held in single, and 45 in joint, zamindari tenure; 12 belong to pattidars, 28 are sub-settled, one is the property of Government, and six are owned in fee-simple. Of the taluqdars the Rani of Majhgawan owns 22 villages; one belongs

to the taluqdar of Ramnagar, four to the Raja of Utraula, and one to the Kalhans taluqdar of Kamiar. The single zamindari villages belong partly to the Janwars of Ikauna and partly to Goshains, who own other property in Basti. The coparcenary communities are frequently well-to-do and have large estates; foremost among them are the Kayasth qanungos, who hold land in every part of the pargana. The Narharpur Kayasths owning villages in the south-east are another such body, as also are the Muraos in the north-east. The last started with one poor village and have, by their industry and cultivation of the more valuable crops, acquired considerable wealth and have purchased several whole villages and shares in others. The relatives of Ashraf Bakhsh Khan were allowed a few villages in maintenance, but are now in very reduced circumstances. The jungle grants are in some cases of great value. The best is Cooknagar, still under European management; it was sold for the sum of Rs. 30,000, and at the last settlement the rent-roll stood at nearly Rs. 24,000, having increased almost threefold during the past thirty years. Altogether 42 villages are held by Rajputs, 33 by Musalmans, 22 by Kayasths, 17 by Brahmans, seven by Goshains, five by Muraos, and one by Europeans.

The sub-proprietors in most cases hold their lands on very severe terms, paying the revenue and a malikana of 50 per cent. They obtained zamindari rights from the Pathans of Utraula on an agreement that they should reserve one-fourth of the profits. At the first summary settlement they engaged for their villages directly, but after the Mutiny the superior rights, though there was no one to claim them, were put up for auction and sold for a trifling sum, with the result that the *birtias* are kept in permanent impoverishment, while it is impossible to take a full proportion of the assets as revenue. In a few instances in which no superior proprietor was to be found his place was taken by Government, but at the last settlement the *birtias* were treated as zamindars.

CHAUDHRIDIH, *Pargana* TULSIPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A village in the north-west of the pargana, situated in 27° 44′ north and 82° 10′ east, on the road from Tulsipur to

Baghora Tal and Nepalganj. Another road runs south to Balrampur, and from it a branch leads to Mathura Bazar, Ikauna, and Khargupur. Chaudhridih is a permanently settled village belonging to the Maharaja of Balrampur. It possesses a school and a dispensary managed by the estate. The population at the last census numbered 957 souls, of whom 82 were Musalmans. Kurmis are the prevailing Hindu caste. The village lies in the *tarai* tract near the forest; it is unhealthy and somewhat inaccessible owing to the inferior nature of the roads.

CHHAPIA, *Pargana* BABHNIPAIR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A small village lying in north latitude 26° 57′ and east longitude 82° 24′, some three miles south-east of Maskinwan station, where the road from Nawabganj to Chandradipghat crosses the railway. There is also a flag station called Chhapia, a short distance north of the village. The latter contained in 1901 a population of 737 souls, among whom Brahmans predominate. A small market is held here daily, but the chief interest of the place is the shrine of Swami Narain and the religious brotherhood attached to it. This saint was the son of a Pande, who had married the daughter of a co-sharer in this village, and was born about 1780. At a very early age the boy, then known as Sahajanand, migrated to Gujarat, where he was adopted by Ramanand, the head of the great Vaishnava monastery at Junagarh. He became a noted Sanskrit scholar and gained a wide reputation for learning and piety. After his death at the age of forty-nine he was accorded divine honours as an incarnation of Krishna under the name of Swami Narain. His immense wealth passed to his two uncles, who went from Chhapia to Gujarat, and their descendants still rule the two branches of the sect. About 1845 his disciples in Gujarat determined to erect a temple at the birthplace of the saint and a number of them came to Chhapia for the purpose. After annexation the village was purchased for the enormous sum of Rs. 500 per acre and the buildings adjoining the temple were completed. The latter consist of houses for the members of the order and for the convenience of travellers and others. Behind the temple is a well-built brick bazar and in front a large masonry tank. The

temple itself, which is built of stone and marble from Mirzapur and Jaipur, is approached through a handsome gateway by a broad flight of steps leading to a domed porch, beyond which is a colonnade surmounted by a stone gallery, which runs all round the building and supports three domes in a row, that in the centre being the largest and directly behind the porch. Under the right hand dome is a shrine of Hanuman, and opposite it a chapel with figures of Shiva, Parbati, and Ganesh; in the centre is a collection of relics, including a portrait of the Swami, his turban, pillow, and bed, the last covered with bands of solid gold. Behind the domes rise three spires of the ordinary description, and underneath them are three chapels, with Rama, Lachhman, and Sita in the centre, Krishna, Radhika, and Balarama to the left, and Swami Narain himself to the right. The whole building, inside and out, is covered with paintings, comprising scenes from the life of the saint, pictures of deities, and harrowing representations of the infernal regions.

The followers of Swami Narain are divided into four orders, of whom the highest are Brahmacharyas, who must be Brahmans by birth, and devote themselves to study and meditation. The Sadhus, who are somewhat lower, are recruited from the twice-born castes and are bound by strict vows of asceticism. Next come the Palas, who are only subject to a vow of celibacy, and are engaged in trading for the society and in building the temples and houses. Lastly, there are the lay disciples of all ranks and classes, who simply regard the head of the brotherhood as their spiritual chief.

Large numbers of pilgrims visit Chhapia at all times of the year, but especially in Kartik and at the Ramnaumi. The staff of the temple is continually changed, reliefs being sent from Gujrat. The Mahant of Junagarh is the proprietor of the village, which covers 274 acres and is assessed at Rs. 225.

COLONELGANJ, *Pargana* GUWARICH, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A thriving town lying in latitude 27° 7′ north and longitude 81° 42′ east, on the main road from Gonda to Bahramghat, at a distance of 15 miles west of the former. Branch roads run south-east to Tarabganj and Nawabganj, north-east to Katra and

Balrampur, and north-west to Bahraich. The main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway runs parallel to the Gonda road and a short distance north of the town, the station being close to the road to Katra. The old name of the place was Sakraura, which still gives its name to the portion lying to the south of the road. It was a village of no peculiar importance till 1780, when a force was sent under the command of Major Byng by the Nawab Wazir to bring to terms the refractory chieftains of the trans-Ghagra districts and to uphold the authority of the nazims. Sakraura was selected as an encamping ground, and a small force remained there for eight years. In 1802 another force under the command of Colonel Fooks was stationed in the old encampment, and a bazar sprang up under the name of Colonelganj, so called in honour of the commanding officer. The cantonments were maintained here till annexation, when the place was selected as the military head-quarters of the Commissioner of Gonda and Bahraich. When the Mutiny broke out, the native force at Colonelganj joined in the rising, and the English officers escaped with difficulty to Balrampur. After the re-occupation of Oudh the station was abandoned, and the only remaining trace of the English occupation is the grave-yard, which contains a few tombstones. The market, however, owing to its central position, continued to flourish and soon became the seat of a busy trade in rice, oilseeds, and other articles. The construction of the railway has tended to its further development. There are no local manufactures, except of brass vessels, generally of an inferior quality, made by a few Thatheras. Markets are held daily in the bazar, which is situated in the middle of the town.

Colonelganj contains a police station, post-office, dispensary, inspection bungalow, cattle pound, and a middle vernacular school. The population at the first census of 1869 numbered 5,898 souls. This rose to 5,904 in 1881, but during the following ten years there was a slight decrease, the total in 1891 being 5,835. At the last enumeration the town contained 6,817 inhabitants, of whom 4,152 were Hindus, 2,637 Musalmans, and 28 of other religions. The prevailing Hindu castes are Banias, Pasis, and Ahirs. The town was formerly a municipality, but since the 24th of June 1878

it has been administered under Act XX of 1856. According to the returns of the last census, the town, including both Colonelganj and Sakraura, contained 1,786 houses, and in 1904 the number of houses assessed was 1,100, yielding an income of Rs. 1,400, with an incidence of Re. 1-4-4 per assessed house and Re. 0-3-3 per head of population. The total income was Rs. 4,715, this including the house tax, the balance of Rs. 1,139 from the preceding year, and the market dues levied on carts and laden ponies coming into the bazar, which is the property of Government. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 3,867, and was devoted chiefly to the maintenance of the local police force, Rs. 866, to conservancy, Rs. 730, and to local improvements, Rs. 2,000. The lands of Colonelganj cover 699 acres and are divided into ten mahals, with a revenue of Rs. 757. The owners of a considerable portion are the Sikh grantees of Chahlari, while the rest belongs partly to Kayasths, Musalmans, Jats, and Bairagis, and partly to Government.

DEBI PATAN, *Pargana* TULSIPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

The village of Patan lies in latitude 27° 32′ north and longitude 82° 24′ east, at a short distance west of Tulsipur, on the road to Chaudhridih. It is a small place, having at the last census a population of 665 souls, including 66 Musalmans and a number of Brahmans. It has a total area of 588 acres, assessed at Rs. 381, and belongs with the rest of the pargana to the Maharaja of Balrampur.

Patan is solely deserving of mention on account of its temple and the great fair which takes place here. It is a place of great antiquity, and is traditionally connected with Raja Karna of the Mahabharata. Other legends ascribe the foundation of a fresh shrine to Vikramaditya, who has been identified with Chandra Gupta II, and who restored the decayed temples of Ajodhya. A third building was erected by Ratan Nath, the third in spiritual descent from Gorakh Nath, the deified saint who is said to have lived in the second half of the fourteenth century, and is celebrated as the founder of the sect of Jogis. Since Ratan Nath there have been some twenty mahants of Debi Patan, who have presided over the brotherhood of Kanphata Jogis, so called from the great

round earrings that they wear. This old temple, built of red sandstone, flourished for many years as a resort of throngs of pilgrims from Gorakhpur, Nepal, and elsewhere, till the days of Aurangzeb, one of whose officers slew the priests, broke the images, and defiled the holy place. This deed was avenged by two Rajputs, who murdered the offending Musalman, of whom tradition relates that he was buried under the Surbir mound, so called from the pigs sacrificed there in derision of his memory, though probably the name is really connected with Shiva. A fourth temple was afterwards erected, apparently by the Chauhan rajas of Tulsipur, and the materials of the former edifice were largely employed in its construction, including an inscribed stone over the gateway, bearing a Nagri inscription in which the name of Gorakh Nath appears.

The temple stands on a large heap of bricks and rubbish, and close by are a tank and well dating from early times. Above these are numerous fragments of broken images and sculpture, the relics of the former temple, the houses of the devotees, various small shrines, and two walled gardens.

It is not known when the present fair of Debi Patan was instituted, as till within comparatively recent times the whole pargana was a vast forest. The clearing of the jungles gave access to Nepal, and it would seem that the trade with the hill-men gradually developed. The fair is held from the 1st to the 9th of the light half of Chait and attracts some 75,000 pilgrims and traders. They encamp near the temple and regular streets are marked out. The religious observances consist of frequent sacrifices of buffaloes, goats, and pigs, the priest receiving a small fee for each animal killed. The trade is mainly in the Tanghan or hill ponies brought down from Nepal in large numbers, while a considerable business is done in cloth, metals, spices, and the various products of the hills. The sanitary arrangements of the fair require close supervision, and a special staff is appointed temporarily for the purpose. In former days the fair was notorious for the outbreaks of cholera, which originated here and was disseminated throughout the district; but the precautions now taken have rendered epidemics far less frequent. The expenses are defrayed by an old cess of one rupee paid by the seller, and

one anna by the purchaser, of each pony, for many years collected by the Balrampur estate.

DEHRAS, *Pargana* Guwarich, *Tahsil* Tarabganj.

A very large village situated in latitude 27° 0′ north and longitude 81° 50′ east, on the south side of the road from Colonelganj to Tarabganj, at a distance of some eight miles west of the tahsil and four miles south-east from Paraspur. It is composed, as are so many of the Guwarich villages, of a large number of hamlets and covers a wide area, extending over 4,360 acres. The population at the last census numbered 4,564 souls, of whom 4,360 were Hindus, including a large proportion of Brahmans, 195 Musalmans, and nine others. There is also a number of Kalhans Rajputs, this place being traditionally the spot in which Maharaj Singh, the founder of the Chhedwara families and the son of Achal Singh of Khurasa, first settled. The village contains a large upper primary school, but nothing else in it deserves note, save the extensive cultivation of *pán*. It is assessed at Rs. 6,000, and is divided into two mahals, one of which is owned by the Rani of Paraspur and the other by the Babu of Ata.

DHANAWAN, *Pargana* Guwarich, *Tahsil* Tarabganj.

A village lying in 27° 2′ north and 81° 40′ east, on the south bank of the Sarju river, some two miles north of the Ghagra and six miles south of Colonelganj. It is only of importance as being the head-quarters of one of the Kalhans families of the Chhedwara, and of the estate now held by Thakurain Sarfaraz Kunwar. An account of the taluqa has already been given in chapter III. Dhanawan adjoins Shahpur, the seat of another branch of the clan. The population in 1901 numbered 1,301 souls, including 219 Musalmans and a large proportion of Brahmans.

DHANEPUR, *Pargana and Tahsil* Gonda.

A large village, lying in latitude 27° 13′ north and longitude 82° 9′ east, on the metalled road from Gonda to Utraula, at a distance of some 14 miles from the former. It is chiefly of importance as being the head-quarters of the Ramnagar estate

owned by the Pande taluqdar, Bhaiya Harbhan Datt Ram. The remains of the old fort of his predecessors lie to the west of the road. The village contains a post-office, an inspection bungalow, a large upper primary school, and a considerable bazar in which markets are held daily; the chief trade is in cattle. The population at the last census numbered 2,408 persons, of whom 1,130 were Musalmans. The village lands cover 719 acres and are assessed at Rs. 1,000; they are held as a single mahal by the taluqdar.

DIGSIR, *Pargana* Digsir, *Tahsil* Tarabganj.

This village gives its name to a pargana, but is otherwise of no importance. It lies in latitude 26° 54′ north and longitude 81° 53′ east, some four miles north of the Ghagra and two miles east of Begamganj, on the road leading from the latter place to Gonda. In former days it was the head-quarters of a chakladar, the remains of whose fort are still to be seen in the centre of the village. It is supposed that the name is derived from some forgotten temple of Dirgeshwar Mahadeo, but nothing is known of its history or foundation. Till annexation it formed part of the Gonda taluqa, and after the Mutiny was given to the Maharaja of Ajodhya. The village covers an area of 1,660 acres, divided into four mahals, in three of which the Maharaja is the sole proprietor, while the fourth is sub-settled; the revenue is Rs. 2,060. The population, which is distributed among several hamlets, numbered 1,070 souls at the last census, including 523 Musalmans and a large number of Brahmans.

DIGSIR *Pargana, Tahsil* Tarabganj.

This pargana lies in the south of the district and occupies the central portion of the Tarabganj tahsil. On the north the boundary is formed by the river Terhi, which separates it from the Gonda and Mahadewa parganas and leaves Digsir at the middle of the eastern border, where it passes into Nawabganj. The latter pargana forms the boundary on the east, to the west is Guwarich, and to the south the river Ghagra separates this district from Bara Banki and Fyzabad. The Terhi, which takes a very winding course, is an insignificant stream during the hot weather, but in the rains is swollen by the drainage from the southern

portion of the table-land which forms the centre of the district. It is fed by a small stream known as the Barsoth or Bagluha, which flows through the centre of the pargana to join the Terhi in Nawabganj. The Ghagra has carved out for itself a bed of great depth, in which the main stream rolls from side to side, changing its course almost every year. These movements of the stream alternately cover with water and expose considerable tracts of land, part of which consists of mere stretches of sand, while part is culturable and forms a fruitful source of dispute between the landlords of this and the neighbouring districts. In the south-western corner of the pargana the Ghagra is joined by the combined waters of the Kundwa and Bilai, which fall into the main stream near Dilernagar. Both of these rise in pargana Guwarich and unite on the western border of this pargana close to Begamganj.

The whole of Digsir is included in the *tarhar* or lowlying area, and its level is some ten or fifteen feet below that of the central upland plain of the district. The two most prominent features of the tract are the sandy area to the north-east and the low level on the southern border. Along the Terhi is a fringe of sandy soil, which sometimes takes the form of low sandhills of pure white sand and elsewhere is merely a light unproductive soil. This belt is of very irregular width, and in places ridges of sand are to be seen alternating with depressions containing a deposit of rich loam. The lowlying alluvial area along the Ghagra is in places separated from the upper half of the pargana by a regular bank formed at no distant period by the river itself, while elsewhere the fall is more gradual. This portion is cut up by the streams already mentioned and numerous other channels which invariably overflow during the rains. When the main stream of the Ghagra is directed towards its northern bank these floods become very marked and cause serious damage, as was especially the case during the ten years preceding 1900. Since that time there has been some improvement and much abandoned land has been brought under the plough; but a considerable proportion lies so low that it is not worth cultivation; its general level is so little above that of the river that the water flows off very slowly and the ground cannot be prepared for the rabi; and

it is covered with rank grass and low bushes, the haunt of innumerable pig and nilgai.

Throughout the pargana, save in the sandy belt along the Terhi, the soil is a light loam of fertile character. This is the case even in the worst villages in the south, and the annual floods do not seem to render it difficult to work. The best villages are those which are free from both floods and sand; such are Bilsar and Pakwangaon, but their number is very small. The majority of the villages are to some extent precarious, as when not subject to floods they usually have an excess of sand. In such cases the cultivation is poor and slovenly and the plough duty generally large. Those villages which are exposed to the action of the Ghagra have but a scanty population and a bad reputation for unhealthiness.

The area of the pargana is constantly liable to change. At the first regular settlement it was 98,627 acres, while thirty years later it had increased to 100,692 acres. Of recent years the increase has been maintained, and in 1904 the total was 101,331 acres or 158 square miles. The area cultivated does not exhibit the same increase, but rather the reverse. At the first settlement it amounted to 63 per cent., while at the last revision a decline of over 10,000 acres was observed, barely 50 per cent. being under the plough. The subsequent improvement has been rapid, but the old proportion has not yet been attained. In 1904 the cultivated area was 58,507 acres or 57·7 per cent., while of the rest 28,731 acres, including 4,177 acres under groves, were classed as culturable and 14,093 acres as barren. Almost the whole of the former was either old fallow or waste of an inferior quality, while of the latter all save 1,057 acres of absolutely unculturable land was either under water or occupied by roads and sites. The double-cropped area is extraordinarily large, amounting in 1904 to 70 per cent. of the cultivation, a far higher figure than in any pargana even of this district. This area has greatly increased of late years, but has always been remarkable. The moist character of the soil and the ease with which it is worked leads to over-cropping in the better villages and the land gets little rest in either harvest. Wheat, which in other parts of the district is generally grown on *ekfasli* land, here follows maize or early rice,

and the rotation elsewhere observed of growing some leguminous crop between two crops of cereals is often neglected. The kharif usually covers a somewhat larger area than the rabi. The chief staples are rice and maize, with a little sugarcane, while in the winter harvest most of the land is sown with wheat, barley, gram, and peas. Mention should also be made of the poppy cultivation, which is very extensive and profitable. Irrigation is rarely required in most villages and is applied only to the poppy crop, or, in unusually dry years, to the wheat. Tanks form the chief source of supply, but unprotected wells can readily be dug in most parts at an insignificant cost.

The cultivation of the pargana is generally not of a high character, a result which follows from the unusual proportion of high caste tenants. Brahmans largely preponderate, while after them come Rajputs. The most numerous low caste tenants are Koris, Ahirs, Kahars, and Bhars; there are small numbers of Muraos and Kurmis, the former being responsible for most of the poppy grown. At the last settlement about 66 per cent. of the land was held by ordinary cash-paying tenants; 12 per cent. was cultivated by the proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht;* 16 per cent. by under-proprietors and occupancy tenants, while the rest was either grain-rented or rent-free. Cash rents averaged Rs. 4·66 per acre, ranging from Rs. 3·46 paid by Rajputs to Rs. 8·36 in the case of Muraos. The average Brahman rate was Rs. 4·3 per acre, and on the whole the high castes obtain an advantage of over 27 per cent.

The revenue demand at the time of the summary settlement was Rs. 79,063. This was raised in 1870 to Rs. 1,24,105, but the latter was subsequently reduced to Rs. 1,04,894. Owing to the deterioration of the pargana and the bad management of the principal estate, it was impossible to obtain any real increase at the last assessment, which was rather of the nature of a re-distribution than a settlement. The net final demand, exclusive of Rs. 1,527 nominally assessed on revenue-free lands, was Rs. 1,07,781, giving an initial incidence of Rs. 2·16 per acre of cultivation. This includes the demand for the 28 alluvial villages. Most of these belong to the Maharaja of Ajodhya, and eight have been assessed for the full period, but those which are

sub-settled were dealt with under the ordinary rules: the settlement expires in 1907, and their revenue is Rs. 5,430.

The population of the pargana at the first Oudh census numbered 90,582 persons. This rose in 1881 to 94,833, but the following enumeration showed a decline, the total being 91,365. At the last census of 1901 a far greater decrease was observed, the number of inhabitants being only 80,790, of whom 40,653 were males and 40,137 females. Musalmans numbered 4,622, an unusually low proportion for this district. The pargana contains 110 villages, of which several are of considerable size, such as Amdahi, Paras, Umri, Begamganj, Tengraha, and Bilsar, but all of these consist of a number of hamlets scattered over a wide area. Tarabganj, the head-quarters of the tahsil, is otherwise a wholly insignificant place, possessing neither a village nor a bazar.

Means of communication are poor. The roads from Gonda to Begamganj and from Colonelganj to Nawabganj cross near Bilsar, a few miles west of the tahsil, but besides these there is no other road save a portion of that from Wazirganj to Dhemuaghat in the eastern extremity.

The pargana has practically no early history. Like the rest of the south of Gonda it is said to have been held by the Doms and afterwards passed into the hands of the Kalhans of Khurasa. Then came the Bisens of Gonda, who extended their sway over the petty zamindars of Digsir, while in later times the Pandes of Singha Chanda and Raja Darshan Singh managed to get most of the villages within their grasp. The old records show that in 1832 the revenue was Rs. 74,665, and from that time till annexation it oscillated between Rs. 46,648 and Rs. 79,297, except in 1839 and 1848, when Darshan Singh made his mark by collecting the extortionate demands of Rs. 1,16,869 and Rs. 1,08,831. Most of this appears to have been actually realized, but where the zamindars failed to pay in full they were compelled to sell their villages to the nazim. Such sales were common in all parts of Oudh, and it was generally considered that a fictitious deed of sale was a fair means of discharging a fictitious debt. At any rate, they had no effect during the Nawabi; but after the Mutiny Maharaja Man Singh produced

all these deeds and applied for the settlement of all the best villages in Nawabganj and Digsir. The district officer protested, but his letter was stolen between Gonda and Fyzabad ; no further enquiries were made, and the engagement for the whole estate claimed was taken from the Maharaja.

At the present time the villages of the pargana are divided into 173 mahals, of which 70 are owned by taluqdars, 24 of these being sub-settled, six by single, and 35 by joint, zamindars, and 58 are pattidari. The remaining four are sub-settled, the superior proprietors being zamindars or coparcenary bodies. The Maharaja of Ajodhya owns 39 whole villages and three mahals; twelve villages and two mahals belong to the Singha Chanda estate, and eight villages and one mahal to the taluqdar of Ramnagar. Three villages are included in the Birwa estate, one village is held by the Raja of Bhinga, and one mahal by the Rani of Paraspur. The other landholders are chiefly Rajputs and Brahmans ; three villages and four mahals belong to Musalmans, two villages and four mahals to Kayasths, and a few mahals to Bairagis, Goshains, Banias, and Bhats.

GAISANRI, *Pargana* TULSIPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A village situated in 27° 32′ north and 82° 32′ east, on the road from Tulsipur to Pachperwa, about half-way between these two places. It has only recently become of importance, owing to the extension of the railway from Tulsipur to Uska Bazar. There is a station here, and from it a branch line leads northwards to Jharia in the forest. The village is permanently settled and belongs to the Maharaja of Balrampur. At the last census it contained a population of 649 persons, of whom 260 were Musalmans, many of them being the descendants of converted Rajputs. There is a small bazar here and a school. The trade is chiefly in forest produce and in the rice for which the pargana has long been famous.

GONDA, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

The head-quarters town of the district lies in latitude 27° 7′ north and longitude 81° 51′ east, at a distance of 28 miles north-north-west of Fyzabad and within fifty miles of the lower ranges

of hills, which are visible throughout the rains and in clear weather at other seasons of the year. The place is of no great importance save as containing the civil station and the district courts and offices. At annexation it possessed a large population and a thriving market, but, not being an industrial centre, its development has been slow. At the first Oudh census of 1869 the number of inhabitants was 11,966. The total rose in 1881 to 13,743, and ten years later to 17,423; but the ensuing decade witnessed a considerable decline, and in 1901 the town had been surpassed in point of population by Balrampur. It then contained 15,811 souls, of whom 8,640 were males and 7,171 females. Classified by religions, there were 9,690 Hindus, 5,913 Musalmans, 73 Christians, and 135 others, chiefly Sikhs and Aryas. Gonda lies on the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, and the station stands at a distance of about a mile and a half to the north of the town. To the west of the town within the civil station there is a second station known as Gonda Kachahri. From the former station branch lines run to Bahraich on the north-west and to Balrampur on the north. Metalled roads lead from Gonda to Balrampur, Utraula, and Fyzabad, while those to Bahraich, Colonelganj, and Tarabganj are only metalled within municipal limits. These roads all unite at or near the *chauk* in the centre of the town, round which the various muhallas are collected.

Tradition relates that the site on which Gonda stands was originally a jungle, and that during the rule of the Kalhans rajas of Khurasa there was a cattle station in which the Ahirs of the raja kept their herds; that from this fact the place was called Gontha, afterwards corrupted into Gonda, a name which occurs with a similar meaning in many parts of the province. The town itself was founded by Raja Man Singh, who built a palace here and erected fortifications in the shape of a deep moat and the rampart made by the earth so excavated. Traces of this moat are still visible, for the ditch became gradually widened by newcomers taking mud from its edge to build houses, until at last the widened fosse developed into a series of ponds, which are never completely filled with water and constitute a serious drawback to the sanitation of the place. The extent of the old town

is marked on the north by the Nagi Garhi; on the south by an old well in the *chauk* near the house of Raja Krishn Datt Ram Pande; on the east by a long pool in the Qanungo muhalla; and on the west by the house of Sita Ram. During the reign of Raja Datt Singh many Rajputs settled at Gonda, and by them the Katehria and Baistola muhallas were peopled. The latter lies outside the old ramparts, so that it appears that the town rapidly extended at this period. Raja Datt Singh built a large palace, which still stands in a decayed state in the north-east of the town near the Utraula road. He set up in it the doorway taken from the palace of the Raja of Bansi. His grandson, Raja Sheo Parshad Singh, who was of a religious temperament, excavated the large tank known as the Sagar, by the side of the road leading to the civil station and Colonelganj, a long sheet of water overshadowed at one end by a large grove of mango trees; on the south side stands the Anjuman-i-Rifah or native club, below which is a walk extending the whole length of the lake, winding in and out among tombs and piles of masonry representing the various sacred places visited by the raja in the course of his travels. In the middle of the lake is an island, on which he built a temple, by the side of which stand the cenotaphs of some members of the raja's family. There are several other temples in the town, notably those of Mihin Lal, Khattri, and Bhagwan Gir, Goshain, in the east of the town along the Fyzabad road by the side of another large sheet of water. The latter temple is of recent construction, but beside it is a *chilbil* tree, connected with which is a curious tradition regarding the family of the Gonda rajas. The story goes that some centuries ago a faqir resided at this spot, and that one day, having cleaned his teeth with a twig of *chilbil* wood, he stuck it in the ground and prophesied that it would grow to be a great tree, and that the fortune of the Bisens would decline on the day that a monkey first appeared upon it. This prophecy was fulfilled shortly after the accession of Raja Debi Bakhsh Singh, who joined the mutineers and lost his estate. In the town near the *chauk* is a fine brick sarai, which was restored by the British Government, and behind it to the north-west lies the Radhakund, a very large masonry tank with a temple at its edge.

Outside the native town, towards the civil lines, stand the high school and the dispensary, between which the Bahraich road branches off. Beyond these the road leads past the Sagar to the civil station and what were formerly the cantonments. At annexation there was a small force at Gonda, and after the Mutiny a considerable garrison with half a British regiment was kept here till 1864, after which date the barracks were partly demolished and partly used as district offices. A new cutcherry was subsequently built, and in 1902 the judge's court was completed. South of the cutcherry is the jail, built on the high ground above the river Terhi. To the north of the main road stand the church, several bungalows, the police lines, and the government garden, which contains a club house built by the Maharaja of Balrampur in 1901.

A portion of the old cantonments lies outside municipal limits and is known as the village of Parade. It contains the bazar of Forbesganj, named after a former deputy commissioner, and an upper primary school. One of the hamlets is known as Portergarh and possesses a cattle market. The village is the property of Government and at the last census contained 627 inhabitants.

In addition to the high school Gonda possesses several other educational institutions. There are two branch schools in the Raja-ka-Muhalla and Naushahra, while in Golaganj is a middle school belonging to the mission and receiving a grant-in-aid from the municipality. There are two upper primary aided schools in the Imambara Kalan and Mahabrahmanan muhallas; a lower primary school in Bankatwa, an aided Hindi school known as the Ram Das Pathshala, and a lower primary school for girls. In addition to the public institutions already mentioned, Gonda possesses a tahsil, a postal head office, with sub-offices in the town and at the railway station, a police station, a road bungalow, encamping-ground, and a cattle pound. Adjoining the dispensary is the poorhouse with a smaller building for lepers, both of which are maintained by public subscriptions. The chief bazar is in the *chauk*, which was greatly improved after the Mutiny, the streets being widened and a number of shops added.

Gonda was constituted a municipality on the 7th of January 1869. Its affairs are managed by a board of twelve members, of

whom nine are elected and three appointed, including the deputy commissioner as chairman. The income is mainly derived from an octroi tax on imports, while other sums accrue from rents of *nazul* and municipal lands and buildings, from pounds, and from the sale of manure. The chief items of income and expenditure since 1891 will be found in the appendix.* Much has been done by the municipality towards improving the sanitation of the place, but owing to the prevalence of malaria the public health is often far from good and the death-rate is much higher than in the rest of the district.

GONDA *Pargana, Tahsil* GONDA.

This large pargana constitutes the whole of the tahsil of the same name, with the exception of the small pargana of Paharapur. It consists of a roughly rectangular tract of country, bounded on the south-west and south by the river Terhi, which separates it from Paharapur and Guwarich, on the north and north-east by the Kuwana, which forms the boundary between this pargana and Balrampur and Utraula; to the east lie Sadullahnagar and Mankapur and to the south-east Mahadewa; while on the north-west the pargana marches with the Bahraich district. It has a total area of 324,583 acres or 508 square miles.

Besides the two rivers already mentioned, the pargana is drained by several small streams, which take the same direction, running from north-west to south-east. The chief of these are the Bisuhi, Manwar, and Chamnai. The Kuwana is fed by one or two small watercourses, such as the Jaida and Pira, which have their origin in the series of jhils around Khargupur in the extreme north. The whole of the pargana, with the exception of a narrow strip in the south, lies in the *uparhar* or upland tract. This is divided from the *tarhar* by a low ridge resembling the bank of a river, which runs at a distance ranging from one to five miles from the Terhi. This lowlying belt possesses a light loam soil with much natural moisture and of considerable fertility, though on the other hand it is subject to inundations and reputed to be unhealthy. Many of the *tarhar*

* Appendix, table XVI.

villages, especially those in the west, are not of a good quality: they have large areas of waste, while the population is small and cultivation indifferent; further east the villages are less liable to flooding and in some cases they are well developed, producing excellent crops and paying very high rents. The *uparhar* exhibits considerable variations in quality. In former days the banks of the rivers and streams were clothed with dense jungles. Those along the southern bank of the Kuwana have been partially cleared and reclaimed, but the land is often uneven, in places covered with long grass and clumps of bushes, and dotted over with *mahua* and other trees. The neighbouring fields are devastated by wild animals and their produce is highly precarious; in many cases the villages in this tract have deteriorated to a marked extent during recent years, owing partly to the depredations of wild animals and also to unfavourable seasons. The jungles along the Bisuhi and Manwar have for the most part been cleared, though there are still clumps of bushes and *jamun* trees extending some distance from the streams. The villages round these rivers are greatly superior in quality to those along the Kuwana, but much still remains to be done in fully reclaiming and developing this area, as large stretches of waste remain, while the population is still scanty. The remaining portion of the pargana between the Bisuhi and the *uparhar* edge is a fertile tract, which has attained a high degree of development; it is fully cultivated and crowded with villages, supporting a large population, which includes many of the best cultivating castes. The quality of the land falls off as the *uparhar* edge is approached, for the surface is there somewhat rough and uneven and in many places broken by ravines. As a whole, the pargana is a tract of great natural fertility, with a good loam soil occasionally degenerating into clay, but rarely of an unworkable character. Water is found everywhere within a short distance from the surface, but *úsar* and *reh* are unknown. There is ample pasture for cattle, and, owing to the number of trees and patches of jungle, wood is cheap and easily obtained. The tenantry probably enjoy a somewhat higher degree of material prosperity than in some of the more densely populated districts; rents are not high, and the holdings are of reasonable size, while the appearance of the

cultivating and labouring classes indicates their general well-being.

The development of the pargana has been very rapid since annexation. By the first regular assessment the cultivated area had largely increased and amounted to 64 per cent. of the whole. At the time of the last settlement it amounted to 196,560 acres or 60·3 per cent., the decrease being due to the deterioration of the northern villages. Since the settlement, however, there has been a marked improvement, and in 1904 the area under the plough was 218,678 acres or 67·4 per cent., while no less than 110,437 acres bore a double crop, the increase in this direction being even more rapid. Of the remaining area, 28,577 acres were classed as barren, but of this all save 705 acres of actually unculturable waste were either under water or occupied by roads and buildings; the culturable waste, including 12,697 acres of grove land, was 77,328 acres, a great proportion consisting of old fallow and the bulk of the remainder of land that still awaits reclamation. The proportion irrigated is large, amounting in ordinary years to nearly half the cultivation ; wells, which are very numerous and can be constructed without difficulty, form the chief source of supply, but the tanks are extensively employed for this purpose in favourable seasons. The kharif harvest covers a somewhat larger area than the rabi, and the chief autumn staples are rice, maize, sugarcane, and *arhar*. In the rabi, gram and peas take the lead, as these crops commonly follow early rice, while in addition there are extensive areas under wheat, barley, oilseeds, and poppy.

The cultivation of the pargana is generally of a high standard, and would be considerably better but for the prevalence of high caste tenants and cultivating proprietors. At the last settlement 75·74 per cent. of the land was held by ordinary tenants on cash rents, while of the rest 8·35 per cent. was cultivated by under-proprietors and occupancy tenants; 8·34 per cent. by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht;* 4·55 per cent. was grain-rented ; and the remaining 3·02 per cent. was either rent-free or held at nominal rates. Cash rents averaged Rs. 4·29 per acre throughout the pargana. Brahmans, who largely predominate, paid Rs. 3·71 and Rajputs Rs. 3·16; while the low caste rate

was Rs. 4·97, paid chiefly by Kurmis, Ahirs, Musalmans, Koris, and Muraos.

The revenue of the pargana at the summary assessment amounted to Rs. 2,51,063, and this was raised at the regular settlement to Rs. 3,48,921. At the last revision an enhancement of 11·12 per cent. was taken, giving an initial incidence of two rupees per acre of cultivation. The demand for the first five years was Rs. 3,88,188, reaching in the eleventh year the full sum of Rs. 3,90,373. This excludes the nominal assessment of Rs. 2,410 on revenue-free estates and the grants held in fee-simple.

The population of the pargana at the first Oudh census of 1869 numbered 272,378 persons. This rose in 1881 to 275,925, and ten years later to 319,220. At the last enumeration of 1901 a considerable decline was observed, owing chiefly to the deterioration in the north, already referred to. The pargana contained 305,042 inhabitants, of whom 154,499 were males and 150,543 females. Classified according to religions, there were 263,466 Hindus, 41,338 Musalmans, and 238 Christians, Sikhs, and others. The pargana possesses in all 652 villages, but the only places which can be described as towns are Gonda itself and Khargupur, which is administered under the provisions of Act XX of 1856. There is, however, a number of villages with large populations, but these generally consist of aggregations of scattered hamlets. Among the most noticeable are Parasarai, Bangaon, Dhanepur, Ujaini, and Retwagara. The chief bazars are those at the two towns, and at Dhanepur, Rajgarh, and Itiathok, the last having been created by the extension of the railway.

Means of communication are generally good. Through Gonda passes the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, with stations at Bidianagar on the eastern border, Gonda, and Gonda Kachahri. Branch lines run to Bahraich, with a station at Kauria, and to Balrampur, with a station at Itiathok. Metalled roads run from Gonda to Balrampur, Fyzabad, and Utraula, and unmetalled roads to Bahraich, Colonelganj, and Tarabganj. Other roads are those leading from the last mentioned to Kauria and Balrampur, joining the metalled

road at Jankinagar, with a branch to Khargupur and Ikauna, from Khargupur to Itiathok and Srinagar, metalled for the first portion of its course, and from near the latter place to Sadullahnagar and Babhnan. Most of these are difficult to traverse during the rains, but at other seasons provide a useful means of transit for country carts.

The early history of the pargana is lost in obscurity, and nothing is known beyond the tradition that it formed part of the dominions of Suhel Dal, the legendary ruler of Sahet Mahet. In later times it formed part of the dominions of the Kalhans rajas of Khurasa, and then, after the death of Achal Singh, it passed into the hands of the Bisen rajas of Gonda. The history of this family has already been given in the annals of the district, as also has that of the great Pande family, who occupied so prominent a position in Gonda towards the close of native rule. After the Mutiny the entire property of the Gonda raja was confiscated, and all that was left to the Bisens were the villages held by the Raja of Bhinga, the taluqdar of Birwa, and the various coparcenary communities of the same clan.

The fiscal history of the pargana during the later days of Nawabi rule is illustrated from the old records preserved by the qanungos. In 1808 the government demand stood at Rs. 2,21,296; eight years later it had risen to Rs. 2,85,243; and in 1822 it rose to Rs. 3,70,570, the largest sum collected before British rule except in the year 1850, when the pargana paid Rs. 3,85,704. It is curious that Raja Darshan Singh should have here failed to raise the revenue as he did in every other place of which he was nazim; in 1842 and the following year, the last in which he held office, he realized under Rs. 2,69,000. In this pargana the revenue was collected direct from the several village proprietors or taluqdars and not levied in a lump sum from the raja, so that it must have borne a much higher proportion to the gross rents than in the parganas of Balrampur and Tulsipur.

At the present time the 652 villages of the pargana are divided into 971 mahals. Of the latter 493 are held by taluqdars, including 49 decreed in sub-settlement; 121 by single, and 195 by joint, zamindars; 158 by coparcenary bodies, while one is held in fee-simple, one is *nazul,* and two are the property of

Government. The chief landowner is the Maharaja of Ajodhya, who owns the old Bisen estate of Bishambarpur, consisting of 144 villages and 20 mahals covering 94,972 acres. The Maharaja of Balrampur possesses 116 villages and 17 mahals, covering 65,175 acres, purchased from the encumbered estates of the Pandes. Of the latter, the taluqdar of Ramnagar owns 25 villages and 11 mahals with an area of 19,913 acres, while 13 villages and six mahals, or 11,457 acres in all, belong to the Singha Chanda property. These two estates originally comprised 199 villages, but after the death of Raja Krishn Datt Ram his heirs became engaged in ruinous litigation, and in addition to the villages sold to Balrampur a large number were bought by Lala Damodar Das, of Azamgarh, and several others by residents of this district. The Birwa taluqa of 67 villages and eight mahals, covering 26,238 acres, has practically ceased to exist, as half is at present in the possession of the Maharaja of Balrampur and half of the Raja of Bilehra in the Bara Banki district. The Raja of Bhinga owns an extensive though somewhat inferior property of 21 villages and three mahals, with an area of 12,026 acres, while of the remaining taluqdars Mahant Har Charan Das owns 8,682 acres, comprising 12 villages and eight mahals and forming a portion of the Basantpur estate; the Rani of Gangwal in Bahraich has two villages of 588 acres; the Raja of Utraula has one mahal of 1,972 acres; and 6,061 acres belong to the Deotaha estate.

In almost all the taluqas there are large numbers of under-proprietary rights. In some estates it is a custom to lease out a village to resident Brahmans on payment of the whole or a certain proportion of the assets, as determined at the settlement; these men divide the land among themselves in large holdings, which they either cultivate through their dependents or sub-let. In other cases, and especially in the Birwa estate, they obtain a deduction of ten per cent. for management, a tenure very similar to the *birts* of the eastern parganas.

Of the whole number of villages 288 are owned by Brahmans, 243 by Rajputs of various clans, 69 by Musalmans, twelve each by Goshains and Nanakshahi faqirs, ten by Banias, three each by Kurmis, Kayasths, and Khattris, two by Bairagis, one by a Kalwar, and three are Government property.

GONDA *Tahsil.*

The central tahsil of the district consists of the two parganas of Gonda and Paharapur, each of which has been separately described. It is bounded on the east and north-east by the Utraula tahsil, on the south by Tarabganj, and on the north and north-west by the Bahraich district. It has a total area of 396,400 acres or 619 square miles. With the exception of a small strip along the the north bank of the Terhi and the whole of Paharapur, the tahsil lies in the *uparhar* or upland tract of the district, which consists of a level, fertile plain of loam soil traversed from north-west to south-east by several rivers, such as the Kuwana, Bisuhi, and Manwar. The land along these rivers was formerly covered with jungle, but much of this has been reclaimed, and, with the exception of a small tract near Khargupur in the north of Gonda, in which a considerable deterioration has taken place of recent years, the whole of the *uparhar* is a highly developed and fertile stretch of country. The *tarhar* or lowlands in the south resemble the Tarabganj tahsil, and, though they do well in dry years, are liable to saturation in seasons of excessive rainfall and are to some extent precarious.

The tahsil is administered as a sub-division in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. The head-quarters of the tahsildar are at Gonda, where there is a small bench of honorary magistrates. The tahsil lies within the Gonda *munsifi*, and civil appeals lie to the district judge. For the purposes of police administration there are police stations at Gonda, Itiathok, Srinagar, and Kauria. A portion of Paharapur is included in the Colonelganj circle, and part of Gonda in that of Andhiari in pargana Mankapur. The present distribution of the police force is shown in the appendix.*

The tahsil is well provided with means of communication. Through Gonda passes the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, with stations at Gonda, Gonda Kachahri, and Maijapur. One branch line runs north-west from Gonda to Bahraich, with a station at Kauria, and a second runs to Balrampur, Tulsipur, and Uska Bazar, with a station at Itiathok. Metalled roads lead from Gonda to Fyzabad, Utraula, and Balrampur,

* Appendix, table XVII.

from Khargupur to Itiathok, while those to Colonelganj and Bahraich are metalled for a short distance from head-quarters. Other roads are those leading from Gonda to Tarabganj on the south; from Colonelganj to Bahraich on the north-west, and to Katra, Kauria, and Balrampur on the north-east, with a branch to Khargupur and Ikauna; from Balrampur on the Colonelganj road to Katra and thence to join the Colonelganj-Bahraich road; from Itiathok to Srinagar on the Utraula road; and the continuation of this south-east to Sadullahnagar. The rivers are bridged on the principal roads and are elsewhere crossed by ferries, a list of which will be found in the appendix.

The chief places in the tahsil are Gonda, Khargupur, and Katra, at each of which there are important bazars. Dhanepur on the Utraula road is a large village and the home of the Ramnagar family, and Khurasa on the road from Gonda to Fyzabad is a place of some historical importance. The other chief markets are at Jigna, where there is a fair trade in baskets and other articles made from the canes that grow along the Kuwana, and at Dubha in the west on the Terhi, where a considerable business is carried on in country cloth. Lists of all the markets, fairs, post-offices, and schools of the tahsil will be found in the appendix.

The population of the tahsil was first enumerated in 1869, when it amounted to 346,517 persons. In 1881 this had risen to 351,185, and ten years later to 404,172. At the last census of 1901 a considerable decline was observed, owing to a series of bad seasons and several epidemics of sickness. The number of inhabitants was 384,021, of whom 194,070 were males and 189,951 females. Of the whole number 331,130 were Hindus, 52,648 Musalmans, and 243 of other religions, including 86 Christians, 96 Sikhs, and 65 Aryas. Of the various Hindu castes, Brahmans were the most numerous, amounting to 69,038 persons. After them came Koris, numbering 33,622; Kurmis, 27,900; Ahirs, 25,287; Kahars, 17,535; and Chamars, 15,402. Besides these, Muraos and Rajputs had over 10,000 representatives apiece, while other numerous castes are Kumhars, Pasis, Goshains, Banias, Luniyas, Dhobis, and Barhais. The Rajputs are mainly of the Kalhans and Bisen clans, as is only to be

expected, for in former days these two septs held successively the proprietary right of the whole tract; after them come Chauhans and Bais, neither of whom are of much importance. Among the Musalmans, Pathans preponderate, amounting to 9,186 persons and belonging mainly to the Kakar, Lodi, and Yusufzai clans. Next come Julahas and Behnas, with over 5,000 members apiece, and then Sheikhs, converted Rajputs, Darzis, Telis, Hajjams, and Churihars.

The population is almost wholly agricultural, and at the last census some 70 per cent. were directly dependent on the land for a subsistence. The principal trades are those connected with the supply of articles of food, drink, and clothing, while large numbers work in wood, cane, and other forest produce, and a fair proportion is engaged in transport and foreign commerce.

GUWÂRICH *Pargana, Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

This pargana occupies the south-west corner of the district and forms the western portion of the Tarabganj tahsil, extending from the Bahraich district on the west to the Digsir pargana on the east. To the south the boundary is formed by the river Ghagra, which separates it from Bara Banki, while on the north the pargana marches with Paharapur and on the north-east with Gonda, the dividing line in the latter case being the Terhi river. Its greatest length from east to west is 24 miles and its greatest breadth 17 miles. In addition to the rivers already mentioned, the pargana is intersected by numerous streams and channels running from north-west to south-east and representing for the most part abandoned courses of the Ghagra and Terhi. In the extreme west is the Karai, a backwater of the Ghagra. Through the centre runs the Sarju, which enters the pargana in the north-west corner and flows in a winding course past Colonelganj and Dhanawan to join the Ghagra near Paska. In the east are several smaller watercourses, such as the Kundwa, Bilai, and Chandaha, between the Sarju and the Terhi. With the exception of the last, which joins the Terhi in pargana Digsir, these all fall direct into the Ghagra. These smaller streams, as a rule, flow in a well-defined bed, but the Sarju is wont to alter its point of junction with the Ghagra from year to year. The Ghagra

itself is apt to change its course considerably, and in several places large areas which were formerly cultivated have been either cut away or are now covered with sand, while in other places large additions have been made by the southward tendency of the stream. The total area of the pargana at the first regular settlement was 154,759 acres. This had increased at the last assessment to 163,790, while in 1904 the total was 163,930 acres or 256 square miles.

The whole pargana lies in the *tarhar* or lowlying tract. The subsoil is a pure sand covered with crust of alluvial loam of varying thickness and purity. In places the soil is a fertile loam almost free from sand; in others sand predominates so largely that the land is barely culturable; while between these comes land of varying degrees of predominance according to the proportion of loam in its composition. The best soil is in the north-west of the pargana, but its character varies throughout. The surface is nowhere very level, and frequently deposits of rich loam are to be seen between ridges of high, sandy ground. The south-east of the pargana between the Bilai and the Ghagra lies low and suffers much from inundations, this tract generally resembling the riverain portion of Digsir.

The pargana is very densely populated, and the proportion of the land cultivated has at all times been high. At the first regular settlement it amounted to 59 per cent., while at the revision thirty years later the ratio was much the same, for, while cultivation had increased, the addition to the total area consisted mainly of barren sand. In 1904 the area under the plough was 100,756 acres or 61·4 per cent. Of the remainder, 39,674 acres, including 7,194 acres under groves, were classed as culturable, the bulk of this consisting of old fallow of inferior quality, and 23,500 acres as barren. Of the latter most was under water or occupied by roads and sites, but as much as 3,139 acres were classed as unfit for cultivation, a higher figure than in any other part of the district. As in Digsir, the double-cropped area is very large, amounting to nearly 65 per cent. of the cultivation. The kharif is the principal harvest, and the chief staples are maize and rice, the former predominating in the north. In the rabi, wheat, gram, and peas constitute the bulk of the harvest,

while there is a large area under poppy. The last is the most valuable crop and has greatly increased in popularity. Sugarcane, which is grown to some extent in the kharif, is of an inferior description and is mainly to be found in the flooded areas near the Ghagra. There is but little irrigation, for little is needed, except for poppy. Tanks form the chief source of supply, but wells can readily be constructed in most parts.

As in other parganas of this tahsil, the higher castes predominate, Brahmans and Rajputs occupying about 70 per cent. of the whole tenant-held area. Next come Ahirs, Musalmans, Kurmis, and Muraos. At the last settlement nearly 80 per cent. of the land was in the hands of ordinary cash-paying tenants; 8 per cent. was cultivated by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht;* 8·7 per cent. by under-proprietors and occupancy tenants; while the rest was either nominally rented or held on grain rents, the latter prevailing in the more precarious parts. Cash rates averaged Rs. 4·39 per acre, ranging from Rs. 11·78 in the case of Muraos to Rs. 3·37 paid by Rajputs. The average low caste rate was Rs. 5·64, and that for Brahmans 25 per cent. lower.

The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement amounted to Rs. 1,06,193. This was raised to Rs. 1,69,160 at the regular assessment, but was ultimately reduced to Rs. 1,47,502. At the last revision an enhancement of nearly 18 per cent. was taken and the final demand, excluding the nominal assessment of Rs. 2,542 on revenue-free land and Rs. 1,150 on permanently settled estates, was Rs. 1,88,105, giving an initial incidence of Rs. 3·02 per acre of cultivation. This includes the demand for the 35 alluvial mahals along the Ghagra, which, with the exception of 10 belonging to the Kamiar taluqdar, have been settled for a short term only; the last assessment expires in 1907, and the present demand is Rs. 13,053.

The population of the pargana at the first Oudh census numbered 154,745 persons. In 1881 a noticeable decline was observed, the total being 148,176, while ten years later it again rose to 156,484. At the last census in 1901 the pargana again showed a decrease, the number of inhabitants being 155,463, of whom 79,201 were males and 76,262 females. Classified by religions, there were 140,737 Hindus, 14,576 Musalmans, and

150 others, chiefly Christians and Sikhs. The pargana contains 219 villages, and of these Colonelganj and Paraspur Ata may be classed as towns. Many others have large populations, such as Khargupur, Sarayan, Paska, Barauli, and Dehras, but in every case the villages are made up of an aggregation of hamlets dispersed over a wide area.

The north-west of the pargana is traversed by the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, with stations at Colonelganj and Katra, the latter also being known as Sarju. Parallel to the railway runs the road from Gonda to Bahramghat and joined at Colonelganj by that from Nawabganj and Tarabganj. The latter is crossed at Paraspur by the road from Kamiarghat to Balpur. Through the north-eastern corner runs the road from Gonda to Begamganj. Other roads lead from Colonelganj to Bahraich and Balrampur.

The derivation of the name Guwarich is unknown. Local tradition connects it with the word *gauraksha* or the protection of cattle, adducing in support of this a story of the Pandava brethren. Another suggestion is that the name is a corruption of Ramgarh Gauri, the name given in ancient times to the whole tract beyond the Ghagra. It seems more probable that the word merely implies pasture land, as the tract was the grazing ground for the cattle of the Oudh governors till the transfer of the capital to Lucknow. Like the rest of Ramgarh Gauri, the early proprietors are said to have been Doms, and these were displaced by the Kalhans rajas of Khurasa. From Achal Singh, the last ruler of that house, came Maharaj Singh, who settled in Dehras and acquired a small estate. From him came the Kalhans of the six houses or Chhedwara, who still hold the greater part of the pargana.

At the present time the 219 villages of Guwarich are divided into 310 mahals. Of the latter 227 are owned by taluqdars, 25 being sub-settled; 13 are held in single, and 26 in joint, zamindari tenure, and 42 by coparcenary bodies. The remaining two mahals are *nazul* property and form part of the town of Colonelganj. Of the various Kalhans houses the Thakurain of Kamiar owns 41 villages and 10 mahals, the Thakurain of Dhanawan 30 villages and 12 mahals, the Rani of Paraspur 27 villages

and four mahals, the Thakurain of Paska 13 villages and three mahals, the taluqdar of Shahpur 27 villages and 16 mahals, the taluqdar of Ata 14 villages and three mahals, and the Thakurain of Mustafabad in Bahraich holds three villages known as the Chingiria estate. Besides these, several other taluqdars hold land in the pargana. The Maharaja of Ajodhya owns ten villages and two mahals; five villages belong to the Ramnagar estate and four villages and one mahal to the Singha Chanda taluqa; the Raja-i-Rajgan of Kapurthala has three villages; the Sikh grantees of Chahlari hold one revenue-paying mahal and several revenue-free plots in Sikraura; two villages form part of the Birwa estate; and one mahal is the property of Mahant Har Charan Das. The rest of the pargana is mainly owned by Brahmans and Rajputs of the Kalhans clan: Bairagis hold one village and nine mahals, Musalmans four villages and six mahals, Goshains two mahals, and Kayasths and Kahars one mahal apiece.

ITAI RAMPUR, *Pargana and Tahsil* UTRAULA.

An enormous village lying in latitude 27° 12′ north and longtitude 82° 26′ east, on the edge of the jungles along the north bank of the Kuwana river and on the borders of the Basti district some nine miles south of Utraula. It is chiefly noticeable for the size of its population, which at the last census numbered 5,660 persons, of whom 2,412 were Musalmans. The village, which covers an area of 4,783 acres, is made up of fifty or more scattered hamlets. It contains a lower primary school, a district-dak post-office, and a small bazar, in which markets are held weekly. The chief trade is in grain, mainly wheat, for which the village is famous. The revenue is Rs. 6,125, and the proprietors are a large body of Maliks, who own a considerable amount of land in the neighbourhood. These Maliks are said to have come from Arabia some centuries ago and to have settled near Delhi, whence they migrated to this neighbourhood, one of them obtaining the office of chaudhri; their descendants extended their possessions, both in Utraula and in the Domariaganj tahsil of the Basti district, and much of the estate they acquired remains in the hands of the same family.

ITIATHOK, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

A village lying in latitude 27° 18′ north and longtitude 82° 2′ east, on the main road from Gonda to Balrampur, at a distance of thirteen miles north of the former and half a mile north of the Bisuhi river. A metalled branch road leads to Khargupur on the north-west and another, unmetalled, to Srinagar on the south-east. Parallel to the main road runs the railway, with a station a short distance to the east of the village. Itiathok possesses a police station, a post-office, and a cattle pound. There is also a good bazar, in which markets are held daily; this was built by the Balrampur estate after the construction of the railway, and the attempt to attract traders from other parts of the district has proved successful, so that the place is rapidly growing in importance. The trade is chiefly in grain, but the canes that grow in the Kuwana form an important article of merchandise, being largely used in chair-making and for many other purposes. The population of the village at the last census numbered 977 persons, including 133 Musalmans and a considerable proportion of Brahmans. The village lands cover 734 acres, assessed at Rs. 1,009, and are the property of the Maharaja of Balrampur.

JANKINAGAR, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

A village on the road from Gonda to Balrampur, in latitude 27° 22′ north and longitude 82° 4′ east, some six miles north of Itiathok. The road is here joined by the branch leading from Colonelganj, Katra, and Kauria station. The place contains a large and thriving bazar known as Maharajganj and belonging to the Balrampur estate. Markets are held here daily, and a considerable trade is carried on in grain and other articles. There is an inspection bungalow and a small school here, and a fair takes place annually in Phagun at the temple of Dukharan Nath Mahadeo; it is attended by some 7,500 persons. The population at the last census numbered 866 souls, of whom 138 were Musalmans. Hard by is the village of Deotaha, the seat of Thakurain Jairaj Kunwar.

KATRA, *Pargana* PAHARAPUR, *Tahsil* GONDA.

A small town lying in latitude 27° 12′ north and longitude 81° 42′ east, on the road running from Colonelganj to Maharajganj

and Balrampur, at a distance of six miles north-east of the first named place. One branch road runs south-east to Balpur on the road from Gonda to Bahramghat, and another goes west to join that from Colonelganj to Bahraich. The main site lies between the road and the Terhi river, which is crossed by a ferry at Ramanpur some three miles to the north-east. Katra is properly the name of the bazar lying within the limits of the village of Birpur, which lies to the east of the road. The village lands extend over an area of 1,336 acres and are assessed at Rs. 3,210: they belong partly to the Maharaja of Ajodhya and partly to the Singha Chanda estate. Birpur possesses a post-office, a cattle pound, and an upper primary school. There was for many years a police station here, which had formerly been located at Ramanpur, but in 1905 it was again moved to Kauria. The bazar is of considerable importance, and a large trade is carried on in grain and cotton goods. The latter chiefly takes the form of stamped calico or *kasani*, which is made here in large quantities by the Musalman printers. The inhabitants of Katra at the last census numbered 2,313 persons, of whom 1,295 were Hindus and 828 Musalmans. The town has slightly declined of late years, for in 1881 the population was 2,418, and ten years later 2,472. These figures are not those of the whole village of Birpur, but only for the area under Act XX of 1856. The total at the last census amounted to 2,677 persons.

Katra has been administered under the *chaukidari* Act since 1877. The town contains 491 houses, of which 210 were assessed to taxation in 1904, yielding Rs. 400, at the rate of Re. 1-14-5 per assessed house and Re. 0-2-9 per head of population. The expenditure was chiefly devoted to the local police force, which costs Rs. 216 annually, to conservancy Rs. 72, and to small local improvements.

KAURIA, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

A small village on the north-western borders of the pargana, in latitude 27° 16′ north and longitude 81° 53′ east, on the road from Colonelganj to Balrampur, some two miles from its junction with that from Gonda to Bahraich. It possesses a railway station on the branch line to Bahraich, at a distance of ten miles from

Gonda, a police station, a post-office, a small aided school, and a bazar of considerable local importance, in which markets are held daily. The population of the village at the last census numbered 872 persons, nearly half of them being Brahmans. The village lands, which cover 535 acres, are assessed at Rs. 600 and form a portion of the Birwa estate.

KAWAPUR, *Pargana* BALRAMPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A hamlet of the village of Nawazpur, which lies in latitude 27° 31′ north and longitude 82° 19′ east, at a distance of some nine miles north-east of Balrampur. It gives its name to a station on the branch line of railway from the latter place to Tulsipur and Uska Bazar, but is otherwise of no importance. Since the construction of the railway a small bazar has sprung up here, in which markets are held daily. The village has an area of 652 acres, and at the last census contained 644 inhabitants, of whom 333 were Musalmans. The revenue is Rs. 518, fixed in perpetuity, and the proprietor is the Maharaja of Balrampur.

KHARGUPUR, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

A small town lying in the north of the pargana in latitude 27° 22′ north and longitude 81° 59′ east, at a distance of twenty miles north of Gonda. It lies on the east side of the road leading from Kauria station to Mathura in Balrampur, which is here joined by a metalled branch road from Itiathok. The place contains a bazar of considerable local importance, in which markets are held daily, a post-office, and a large upper primary school. There is also a collecting station of the Maharaja of Ajodhya, the owner of the village. The lands of Khargupur cover 723 acres and are assessed at Rs. 1,150. The place has grown rapidly of late years: in 1881 it contained but 1,672 inhabitants, the number rising to 2,340 in 1891, while at the last census the total was 3,252 persons, of whom 2,306 were Hindus, 942 Musalmans, and four of other religions. Among the Hindus are many Kumhars, who turn out large quantities of pottery, for the manufacture of which the heavy clay soil is well adapted. Another industry of the place is the brass-work, which formerly had a small local reputation.

Khargupur has within the memory of man become famous for its temple. This was constructed by Maharaja Sir Man Singh, of Ajodhya, subsequent to the discovery of a large *lingam* with a well-carved *argha*, a relic of the remote past. The temple, which is a very handsome edifice, was completed when the estate was under direct management. Both to the west and south of Khargupur there are several mounds, which doubtless represent the site of a buried town, but these have never been explored. The temple is visited by considerable numbers of pilgrims, whose offerings are given to the resident Goshains.

Khargupur has been administered under Act XX of 1856 since 1877. The place contains 337 houses, of which 178 were assessed in 1904, the proceeds of the house tax being Rs. 450 with an incidence of Rs. 2-8-0 per assessed house and Re. 0-2-9 per head of population. The expenditure was chiefly devoted to the upkeep of the town police force, which costs Rs. 216 annually, to conservancy Rs. 72, and to small local improvements.

KHURASA, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

A village lying in 27° 5′ north and 82° 1′ east, on the metalled road from Gonda to Fyzabad, at a distance of five miles south-east from the district headquarters. It contained in 1901 a population of 1,110 inhabitants, of whom as many as 828 were Musalmans, many of them being Pathans. There is a large school here and a daily market ; the place belongs to the Maharaja of Ajodhya. Khurasa is chiefly of interest on account of its historical associations, for here was the seat of the Kalhans rajas of Gonda till the time of the destruction of the town and all its inhabitants, including Raja Achal Narain Singh, by flood. The story has already been told in chapter V. With Khurasa the Kalhans dynasty perished, and the Gonda pargana passed into the hands of the Bisens, by whom it was held till the confiscation of the Gonda taluqa in 1858.

LALIA, *Pargana* BALRAMPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A small village lying in latitude 27° 35′ north and longitude 82° 8′ east, on the road from Balrampur to Chaudhridih, at a

distance of eleven miles north of the former and close to the Burhi Rapti. It is only deserving of mention as possessing a third class police station, a post-office, a cattle pound, and a lower primary school. The village covers an area of 1,690 acres, assessed at Rs. 1,405 and owned by the Maharaja of Balrampur. The population at the last census numbered 1,149 persons, mainly Kurmis.

MACHHLIGAON, *Pargana* MANKAPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A village in the north of the pargana, lying in latitude 27° 5′ north and longitude 82° 15′ east, on the unmetalled road from Mankapur to Sadullahnagar and two miles east of the Andhiari police station. It is known as Machhligaon Nankari, to distinguish it from another Machhligaon some five miles to the west. The place is chiefly noticeable for its bazar, in which markets are held daily. Vessels of brass and bell-metal are manufactured here to some extent, and a considerable trade is carried on in these articles and in grain, cotton cloth, and tobacco. One of the hamlets of the village is Karauhan, close to which is a small mound marking the locality of an ancient temple. During the Mutiny a *lingam* was discovered here by a Goshain, and further excavations disclosed an old well and a few small images. The temple, known as Karauhan Nath, has been rebuilt and the place is now of considerable local sanctity. A large fair attended by some 20,000 persons is held here annually on the Sheoratri. The population of Machhligaon at the last census numbered 1,525, of whom 297 were Musalmans and 1,228 Hindus, a considerable proportion of the latter being Banias. There is a large upper primary school here, and a small district board school for girls. Reference to the fight which occurred near Machhligaon during the Mutiny will be found in the history of the district.

MAHADEWA, *Pargana* MAHADEWA, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

The village which gives its name to the pargana is a place of little importance. It lies in latitude 26° 58′ north and longitude 82° 7′ east, on the north bank of the Konrar jhil, at a distance of a mile north of Wazirganj and fifteen miles from

Gonda. The main road from the latter place to Fyzabad runs half a mile east of the village. It is said that in former days the land on which Mahadewa now stands was covered with a jungle, within which stood the temple of Gaureshwar Mahadeo. The Raja of Khurasa made a grant of 250 *bighas* of land surrounding this temple to one Gorkhi Gir, Goshain, who cleared the jungle and built the village. The lands of Mahadewa now cover only 86 acres; they are assessed at Rs. 180 and divided into four mahals, of which one is still owned by the descendants of the Goshain, one belongs to the Rani of Paraspur, one to Rajputs, and one to Musalmans. The temple still possesses considerable local sanctity, and pilgrims come here in large numbers during the Holi festivals. There is another temple of recent date, built by a retired subahdar. The population of Mahadewa at the last census numbered 660 souls, including some 200 Goshains and 128 Musalmans.

MAHADEWA *Pargana, Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

This small pargana lies in the eastern half of the tahsil, between the Terhi river, which separates it from Digsir on the south-west, and the Chamnai, which forms the boundary on the north-east, dividing it from Mankapur. To the north-west lies Gonda, the dividing line being the Pathri jhil as far as its junction with the Terhi. To the south and south-east lies pargana Nawabganj, the boundary being partly formed by the Parbati and Argha jhils. The tract falls into two main natural divisions, the *uparhar* or upland tract and the *tarhar* or lowlands, separated by a ridge varying from fifteen to twenty feet in height, which roughly follows the course of the main road from Fyzabad to Gonda. This line is not very clearly defined throughout. From the north-west corner to the centre it resembles a river bank, being in places covered with trees and jungle; but in the south-east the outline has been in places washed away by fluvial action, and towards the Parbati jhil the distinction seems almost lost, the surface being merely irregular and the soil appearing to possess the characteristics of both tracts. The bulk of the *uparhar* villages are of fair quality, resembling those in pargana Gonda, but in the extreme east they are exposed to the ravages of wild animals

along the borders of the Tikri forest, while on the high bank the soil is light and poor. Further inland it is generally loam with an inclination to sand. In the *tarhar*, too, the soil is a light loam very apt to degenerate into sand. The quality of the villages of this part is very uneven, as in places high drifts of pure sand may be seen alternating with rich deposits of loam, while elsewhere the surface is most irregular. Thus in some villages in the south, such as Narainpur and Manjhara, one portion of the land is quite unculturable while the other fetches very high rents for poppy cultivation. Sometimes, too, as in the case with Lachchhipur and elsewhere near the Pathri jhil, the land lies low and is subject to inundations, though the soil is of great fertility. Only a few villages, such as Mahadewa, Holapur, and Wazirganj, are free from any of these defects and are of great value.

The total area of the pargana is 56,874 acres or nearly 89 square miles. The proportion cultivated at the first regular settlement was only 52 per cent., but since that time it has rapidly increased. At the last assessment it amounted to 32,520 acres or 57 per cent., while in 1904 it had risen to 36,187 acres or over 63 per cent., and no less than 21,678 acres bore a double crop. Of the remaining area, 4,615 acres were classed as barren, but of this all save 134 acres were either under water or occupied by roads and buildings; the culturable area, including 1,508 acres under groves, was returned at 16,072 acres, consisting mainly of old fallow and waste, most of which would never repay cultivation. About one-third of the land is irrigated, mainly from wells, which can readily be constructed save where the subsoil is sandy; in the *tarhar* irrigation is not required except for garden crops. The kharif area slightly exceeds that sown in the rabi in extent, but the proportion varies in different parts according to the nature of the crops grown. In the *uparhar* the staples are wheat and rice, with some poppy and sugarcane, while in the *tarhar* wheat, barley, and maize predominate, though poppy is the crop to which most importance is attached. The soil is very suitable for its growth and the profits are large. The wheat is generally grown on *dofasli* land and is not of a very high quality.

The cultivation of the pargana would be better were there not so many tenants of high caste. Brahmans predominate, as

elsewhere in the southern parganas, but not to the same extent as in Paharapur and Nawabganj. Rajputs, too, hold a considerable proportion of the land, and after them come Koris, Ahirs, Musalmans, Muraos, and Kurmis. The average rent rate at the last settlement was Rs. 4-4-0 per acre, ranging from Rs. 5-6-0 paid by Muraos to Rs. 3-14-0 in the case of Rajputs. The difference between the high and low caste rents is over 26 per cent., and it is noticeable that, while the average rental has risen, the Brahmans and Rajputs have successfully resisted attempts at enhancement. The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement was Rs. 34,469. This was raised to Rs. 49,695 at the regular assessment, while at the last revision an increase of 25 per cent. was taken. The sanctioned final demand was Rs. 57,844, giving an incidence of Re. 1·57 per assessed acre. This excludes the nominal demand of Rs. 2,086 on revenue-free lands and a nominal enhancement of Rs. 40 on permanently settled estates.

In 1869 the pargana contained a population of 48,820 persons. This rose in 1881 to 51,492, and ten years later to 59,676. At the last enumeration of 1901 the population numbered 52,498 souls, of whom 27,656 were males and 25,742 females. The decrease was large, but may to some extent be accounted for by the absence of persons at the Ajodhya fair. Classified according to religions, there were 48,156 Hindus, 4,338 Musalmans, and four others. The pargana contains 104 villages, but none of these are of any importance except Wazirganj, which possesses a police station, and Singha Chanda, the head-quarters of a large taluqa.

Means of communication are provided by the metalled road from Gonda to Fyzabad, which passes through the centre of the pargana and leaves it near Wazirganj, whence a road runs south-west to Dhemuaghat on the Ghagra. Another branch leads from Dumariadih in the north-west to Bidianagar station.

The early history of the pargana is almost identical with that of Nawabganj. In ancient times it is said that there was a Bhar settlement at Asokpur, and that during the invasion of Saiyid Salar his lieutenant, Hatila Pir, made an attack on this place and was killed. His tomb is still to be seen in the village, and a fair is held here on the first Sunday in Jeth. To the same

period belongs the old fort of Dumariadih, said to have belonged to the Dom Raja Ugarsen. In subsequent times the pargana came into the hands of the Kalhans, one of whom, named Sahaj Singh, was an officer in the army of the Kayasth subadar, Rai Jagat Singh, who exterminated the Doms. His Kalhans descendants held the tract for seven generations, and it was then absorbed by Raja Achal Singh, of Khurasa. He made a grant of the estate of Lodhia Ghata to the Gauraha Bisens, Sahang Rai and Malang Rai, in reward for their exploits in the campaign against the Raja of Ikauna. Since that time the Kalhans and Gauraha Bisens have held the bulk of the pargana, though a large share was acquired by Ram Datt Ram Pande and still forms a portion of the Singha Chanda and Ramnagar estates.

At the present time the 104 villages of the pargana are divided into 342 mahals. Of the latter 83, of which five are sub-settled, are owned by taluqdars; 23 are held in single, and 87 in joint, zamindari tenure; 116 are pattidari, 16 are bhaiyachara, nine are sub-settled, six are revenue-free, and two the property of Government. The chief taluqdari estate is that of Singha Chanda, which comprises eight whole villages and 14 mahals. The taluqdar of Ramnagar, another member of the same family, holds ten villages and portions of eight others. The Rani of Majhgawan has one whole village and parts of seventeen others; the Rani of Paraspur has seventeen mahals; one village and one mahal belong to the Maharaja of Ajodhya; three mahals to the Maharaja of Balrampur; one village and one mahal to the Kalhans taluqdars of Paska; and one mahal is the property of the Raja of Mankapur. The Singha Chanda and Ramnagar villages were recently acquired and are still for the most part in the hands of Brahman and Rajput under-proprietors. The zamindars and coparcenary communities are mainly Rajputs of the Gauraha Bisen clan, who predominate in the *uparhar* villages; their tenures are very complex, as, instead of dividing their villages separately among themselves, they treated the whole as a single mahal and divided portions of the villages as pattis, the result being that each member owns a number of small shares in villages situated widely apart. The rest of the land is in the possession of Brahmans, Kayasths, and Musalmans, while small amounts belong to Bairagis and Goshains.

MAHARAJGANJ, *Pargana* BALRAMPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A village lying in latitude 27° 32′ north and longitude 82° 15′ east, some nine miles north of Balrampur, and four miles from Kawapur station on the line to Tulsipur and Uska Bazar. At the last census it contained 1,085 inhabitants, including 307 Musalmans and a large proportion of Banias. The village belongs to the Maharaja of Balrampur and possesses a post-office, an inspection bungalow, an upper primary school, and a bazar in which markets are held daily. The trade is chiefly in the rice of the *tarai*, which is collected here and exported by the railway. The old name of the village was Hariharpur, but this was changed to Maharajganj after the construction of the bazar.

MAHNON, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

This village lies in the north-east of the pargana in latitude 27° 17′ north and longitude 82° 9′ east, a short distance north of the road from Srinagar to Itiathok, and three miles from the former. It is mainly of importance as being the head-quarters of the Mahnon or Birwa taluqa, an account of which has already been given in chapter III. The village contains a bazar, in which daily markets are held, and a large school. The population in 1901 numbered 1,446 persons, of whom 247 were Musalmans. With the rest of the estate it is now in the possession of the Maharaja of Balrampur and the Raja of Bilehra.

MAIJAPUR, *Pargana* PAHARAPUR, *Tahsil* GONDA.

A small village in the south-east of the pargana, situated in latitude 27° 8′ north and longitude 81° 48′ east, at a distance of eight miles west of Gonda and a mile north of the road to Colonelganj. It only deserves mention as possessing a post-office and a railway station on the Bengal and North-Western main line. The village contained at the last census a population of 688 persons, mainly Brahmans. It has an area of 637 acres, assessed at Rs. 790, and divided into two mahals, of which one is held by the Maharaja of Ajodhya and one by resident Brahmans. Adjoining Maijapur on the south is the large village of Parsa Gondri on the main road.

MANKAPUR, *Pargana* MANKAPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

The village which gives its name to the pargana lies in latitude 27° 3′ north and longitude 82° 14′ east, about a mile north of the station of the same name on the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway. A branch line takes off from this place and runs south to Lakarmandi ghát. From the station a metalled branch road runs west for a little more than a mile to join the road from Nawabganj to Utraula. Through the north of the village runs the branch road from Bhitaura to Machhligaon and Sadullahnagar. Between the village and the railway station is the bazar, known as Raniganj, in which markets are held daily. Raniganj also contains a post-office, a registration office, an inspection bungalow, an aided primary school, and a police outpost specially established for the supervision of the Barwar colony. Tradition relates that the village was founded by a Bhar named Makka, who displaced the Tharus from this part of the country, and that the site was formerly covered with a dense jungle. It now gives its name to the estate held by the Bisen Raja, Raghuraj Singh. The village has a total area of 868 acres, but a large portion of this consists of waste and jungle ; the revenue is Rs. 129, and the raja is the sole proprietor. The population of Mankapur with Raniganj at the last census numbered 1,559 souls, of whom 448 were Musalmans.

MANKAPUR *Pargana, Tahsil* UTRAULA.

This pargana lies in the south of the tahsil, being bounded on the north-east by Sadullahnagar, on the north-west by pargana Gonda, on the south-west by the Chamnai river, which separates its from Mahadewa, on the south by Nawabganj, and on the south-east by Babhnipair and the Basti district. The boundary between Mankapur and Sadullahnagar is formed by the Bisuhi river, which with the Chamnai drains the outlying portions, while through the centre runs the small Manwar stream in a direction roughly parallel to that of the other rivers. The tract presents very diverse characteristics in different parts. The southern border runs along the Tikri reserved forest, which extends for a considerable distance into the south-east of the pargana. In its neighbourhood are villages in various stages of reclamation, in

most of which the cultivation is very precarious owing to the damage done by wild animals. In former days this forest stretched across the pargana to join the jungles along the Bisuhi. Much of this has been cleared away, but there is still a considerable belt of trees in the narrowest part, known as the Allenpur jungle, which, though granted some years ago for the purpose of reclamation, has disappeared to very small extent. Other smaller patches in neighbouring villages show where the line of forest once ran. The whole of this tract suffers from the ravages of wild animals and the cultivation is fluctuating and precarious. The country along the Manwar consists generally of high, inferior land with frequent stretches of waste and an abundant growth of *mahua* trees. These features are more marked on the northern bank of the river, as to the south there are some good villages in which only the immediate neighbourhood of the stream is affected. Along the Bisuhi is a similar cliff of high land, wider than in the case of the Manwar and formerly covered with *sál* forests. Part of this has been reclaimed, but there is still a considerable fringe of trees along the bank. In the east the forest has almost wholly disappeared, while the villages are smaller and the population more dense. The soil along the Bisuhi is generally light, but it becomes firmer and stronger towards the Babhnipair border. In the extreme west along the Gonda boundary the villages resemble those of the latter pargana. The soil is mainly clay except near the rivers, though it already shows traces of the lighter loam in its composition, which become more marked in the centre. Dotted about the pargana are several jhils, the largest being the great Barwar, or Zirabhari Tal, in the extreme south-east, extending into Babhnipair.

On the whole the pargana is inferior in quality to the adjacent tracts. It contains a large amount of precarious land in the neighbourhood of the forests, wide tracts that are practically barren, and a light, weak soil that often has so much sand in its composition as to be unculturable. The unusual abundance of *mahua* trees is said to be a sign of the poverty of the soil; but, on the other hand, their value is considerable and large quantities of *mahua* are exported. It also suffers from the enormous number of monkeys which abound in every part of the

pargana, for, though their presence is doubtless to be ascribed to the number of *mahua* trees, which form their chief food supply, they do untold damage to the crops. At the same time the soil is well suited to certain classes of crops and rents are fairly high.

Excluding the reserved forest, which covers 4,124 acres, the area of the pargana is 73,661 acres or 115 square miles. At the first regular settlement the proportion cultivated was only 47 per cent., almost the lowest in the district, the area under the plough being 34,838 acres. Since that time there has been some improvement, especially in the better villages, though this has been almost counteracted by the deterioration along the Tikri forest. At the last settlement it amounted to 35,603 acres, while in 1904 it had risen to 39,624 acres or 53·8 per cent. The double-cropped area has largely increased, amounting in the last year to 20,015 acres. Of the remainder, 5,673 acres were returned as barren, but of this only 339 acres were actually unculturable, the rest being either under water or occupied by roads and sites; the culturable waste, including 1,715 acres under groves, was 28,364 acres, most of this being poor land that has never been reclaimed, and almost all the rest nearly worthless fallow. The irrigated area amounts in ordinary years to about one-half of the cultivation, but the tract is liable to suffer in a dry season. Water is found at a depth varying from fourteen to nineteen feet from the surface, but owing to the sandy nature of the subsoil wells are not easy to construct and their supply is small. The kharif covers a somewhat larger area than the rabi, but the latter is the more important harvest. The chief staples are oilseeds and wheat, peas, poppy, the last generally doing well. In the kharif rice largely predominates, followed by *arhar*, maize, and sugarcane.

The cultivation is mainly in the hands of low-caste tenants, and the Brahmans, though numerous, are less frequently found than in the southern and western parganas of the district. Most of the land is tilled by Lunias, Bhars, Khatiks, and Koris, while there are fair numbers of Kurmis, Ahirs, and Musalmans. The average cash rent at the last settlement was Rs. 4·34 per acre; low castes paid Rs. 4·68, and Brahmans and other high caste tenants Rs. 3·62. The Lunias and other aboriginal tribes are

seldom found in the most fertile or highly developed localities, preferring the wilder and unreclaimed tracts near the forests. Of the whole assessed area 60·4 per cent. was held by ordinary tenants at cash rates, nearly 25 per cent. was cultivated by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 6·2 per cent. by under-proprietors and occupancy tenants; while 929 acres were grain-rented, and the remaining 308 acres were held either rent-free or at nominal rates.

The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement amounted to Rs. 31,833. This was raised to Rs. 51,475 at the following regular assessment, and at the last revision the final sanctioned demand was Rs. 61,568, giving an enhancement of 16 per cent. and an incidence of 1·77 per acre of cultivation—a figure which is somewhat less than that of any other pargana of the district. The total excludes the nominal demand of Rs. 1,745, assessed on the fee-simple grants for the purpose of calculating cesses.

The population of Mankapur at the first Oudh census of 1869 numbered 41,858 souls. This rose in 1881 to 46,887, and at the ensuing year to 57,123. At the last enumeration of 1901 the pargana contained 56,710 inhabitants, of whom 28,488 were males and 28,222 females. This showed a slight decline, as was the case in many parganas of the district. Classified according to religions, there were 52,298 Hindus, 4,350 Musalmans, and 62 others, chiefly Christians residing at Allenpur. The pargana contains altogether 196 villages. Several of these have large populations, notably Bhitaura, Dhuswa, Machhligaon, and Mankapur, but in most cases they are composed of many scattered hamlets.

Means of communication have greatly improved since the advent of the railway. The pargana is now traversed by the main line of the Bengal and North-Western system, with stations at Maskinwan, Mankapur, and Bidianagar. From Mankapur a branch line runs south to Lakarmandi ghát. Flourishing bazars have sprung up at each of these places and form the centre of trade both for this pargana and also for Sadullahnagar and Burhapara. Machhligaon, too, has a bazar of some local importance, and is noted for the manufacture of brass vessels. The chief road is that

from Nawabganj to Mankapur and Utraula, which is now metalled for the greater part of its length and is connected with the Mankapur station by a metalled feeder. Branch roads lead to Machhligaon and Sadullahnagar from Mankapur, and from Dhuswa to Darzi-ka-Kuan on the road from Gonda to Fyzabad. The latter is also connected with the Bidianagar station by an unmetalled branch. The eastern corner is traversed by the road from Nawabganj to Chandradipghat, passing through the village of Ranijot, in which the Maskinwan station is situated.

Practically nothing is known about the early history of the pargana. The tract is said to have been in the possession of the Tharus and then of the Bhars. The latter were subdued by the Bandhalgoti Rajputs, whose head-quarters were at Maksara. Their dominion was overthrown by Raja Datt Singh, of Gonda, who established his son, Azmat Singh, at Mankapur, which has since been the head-quarters of this family of Bisens.

The villages of the pargana are now divided into 295 mahals, of which 254 are owned by taluqdars, no less than 185 being sub-settled; four are held by single zamindars, 16 by coparcenary communities, and 17 others are sub-settled; the remaining four are grants held in fee-simple. The principal taluqdar is the Raja of Mankapur, who owns 143 whole villages and two mahals. The Maharaja of Ajodhya owns nine villages, and the taluqdar of Ramnagar two villages, the Raja of Utraula one village. Of the coparcenary estates 20 are held by Kayasths : the rest are mainly owned by Bisen, Bandhalgoti, and other Rajputs with 13 villages, after whom come Brahmans with six and Musalmans with nine. Five villages have recently been purchased by Lala Damodar Das, of Azamgarh, from the Ramnagar estate while under the management of the Court of Wards, and three others have also come into his possession.

The sub-proprietors chiefly hold their villages in *birt*, paying to the taluqdar or other superior landlord twice the revenue less ten per cent. In some cases there are two or even three subordinate tenures—the sub-settlement holders, who pay as a rent the revenue and a *malikana* not exceeding 50 per cent.; the *birtia*, paying the sub-settlement holder twice the revenue less ten per cent.; while below him is the under-proprietor, holding specific

plots. The *birts* generally arose from the purchase of villages sold by members of the Mankapur house, the reason being, as in Babhnipair, that the nazims generally collected direct from the leading villagers, and that the raja was often not allowed to engage. The communities who had no proprietary rights purchased the *birts* for comparatively small sums from the rajas, who were ready enough to obtain money for their unsubstantial claims. These *birtias* have not received the benefit secured to other sub-settlement holders of a minimum share of 25 per cent. of the assets, but they have never been relieved of any of their liabilities, save that at the last settlement they escaped in some cases the payment of the chaukidari cess.

MASKINWAN, *Pargana* MANKAPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A small village which gives its name to a station on the main line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway between Mankapur and Chhapia. The village lies a mile and a half to the south-east of the station, in latitude 26° 59′ north and longitude 82° 23′ east. Close to the station on the west runs the road from Nawabganj to Qasba and Chandradipghat, and at the crossing a considerable bazar has sprung up in the villages of Khalagaon and Ranijot. This bazar is known by the name of Maharajganj, and markets are held here twice a week. Maskinwan also possesses a post-office and a lower primary school. The population of Maskinwan itself numbered only 476 persons at the last census, while that of the bazar was 1,612. The village of Maskinwan has an area of 245 acres, assessed at Rs. 51, and is the property of the Raja of Mankapur.

MATHURA, *Pargana* BALRAMPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A large and scattered village in the extreme west of the pargana, situated in latitude 27° 35′ north and longitude 82° 4′ east, at a distance of two miles north of the Rapti, on the road leading from Khargupur to Chaudhridih, some six miles north-east of Ikauna, and 15 miles from Balrampur. The village is only remarkable as containing the chief bazar of the neighbourhood; markets are held here daily and a considerable trade is carried on. Mathura also possesses a post-office, a dispensary

belonging to the Balrampur estate, a large upper primary school, and a small aided school for girls. The former is located in a large house belonging to the Maharaja of Balrampur, who is the owner of the village. About a mile to the north is a handsome Musalman *dargah* of one Mir Hanifa, erected by the Nawab Wazir Asaf-ud-daula. There is no regular fair here, but a considerable assemblage takes place here on the occasion of the Id festival. The population of Mathura has grown largely of late years. In 1869 it contained but 1,500 inhabitants, while at the last census the total had risen to 3,707, including 868 Musalmans and many Brahmans. The area of the village is 1,265 acres and the revenue Rs. 1,587.

NAWABGANJ, *Pargana* NAWABGANJ, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

The town which gives its name to the eastern pargana of the tahsil lies in latitude 26° 52′ north and longitude 82° 9′ east, on the east side of the main road from Fyzabad to Gonda, at a distance of 24 miles from the latter and some three miles north of the river Ghagra. The road crosses the Terhi river by a temporary bridge, replaced by a ferry during the rains, about a mile south of the town. Other roads run from Nawabganj to Tarabganj and Colonelganj on the north-west, to Mankapur and Utraula on the north, and to Lakarmandi on the south-east. The last is metalled throughout, while the others have been similarly treated for short portions of their length. Parallel to the Lakarmandi road runs the branch line of railway to Mankapur, with a station to the north-east of the town.

Nawabganj derives its name from Nawab Shuja-ud-daula, who found it necessary to establish a bazar on the north of the Ghagra for the supply of his troops and attendants in his frequent hunting expeditions from Fyzabad to Wazirganj. A site was selected far enough from the river to be safe from the floods, on the boundary of the villages of Agampur and Tathia. This bazar in the course of time grew to be the largest grain market in the district. Between 1802 and 1816, when the pargana was held by the British Government, two new muhallas were added, but up to annexation it was never of sufficient importance to be the seat of a Government official. At annexation the place contained only the original market of Nawabganj and the

muhallas of Motiganj and Sanichari Bazar. Since that date ten others have sprung into existence, known as Golaganj, Pakka Darwaza, Pura Ram Sahai, Pura Koriana, and the Lunia, Teliani, Julaha, Thatherai, Chai, and Bazzaz tolas. It is now a considerable town composed of a long street with shops and houses on each side; to the north this street broadens on to a good-sized plain, bordered here and there by substantial sheds for the storage of merchandise and serving as a standing place for the carts which bring down the produce of the *tarai* parganas.

Nawabganj now possesses a police station, post-office, dispensary, registration office, cattle pound, sarai, inspection bungalow, encamping-ground, a large middle vernacular school, an aided mission school, and a similar school for girls. The population at the first Oudh census numbered 6,161 persons, and subsequently increased to 8,373 in 1881 and 9,213 ten years later. The last census showed a marked decline, the number of inhabitants being 7,047, of whom 3,646 were males and 3,401 females. Classified according to religions, there were 5,464 Hindus, 1,573 Musalmans, and 10 Christians. These figures are those for the municipal area alone, for there were at the last census 2,117 other persons residing on the lands of Nawabganj, but outside municipal limits.

The decline in the population was partly due to the Ajodhya fair, where 1,191 persons belonging to the town were enumerated, and partly to the alteration in the trade routes brought about by the construction of the railway. In former days Nawabganj was the centre of the export trade in rice from Tulsipur, Utraula, and the north-west of Basti. Besides this a large business was carried on in oilseeds from the *tarai*, and hides, wheat, and other grain from the neighbouring parganas. The exports went partly by the Ghagra to the markets of Bengal, and partly through Fyzabad to Cawnpore. The former traffic has almost disappeared and the latter has greatly shrunk. Since the construction of the branch line to Balrampur and Tulsipur the rice trade has been diverted to those towns and the dealers have flocked thither from Nawabganj and Utraula. The indifferent state of the road between the latter places has always been a hindrance, and the readier means of export afforded by the Elgin bridge have accelerated the decline of the place.

Nawabganj was constituted a municipality in November 1875, and continued to be so administered till 1904. The income was originally derived from octroi, but this was afterwards abolished and its place taken by a tax on professions and trades and a special property tax. Other sources of income were the rents of *nazul* land and houses, sarais and *paraos*, cattle pound, market dues, and conservancy. The board consisted of twelve members, of whom nine were elected. From the 1st of April 1904 the place was reduced to the status of a notified area under Act I of 1900, and the municipal board was replaced by a small local committee. The details of income and expenditure for each year since 1891 will be found in the appendix.*

The lands of Nawabganj cover 1,335 acres and are assessed at a revenue of Rs. 2,125. The proprietor is the Maharaja of Ajodhya, but three of the four mahals are sub-settled with the descendants of the old owners.

NAWABGANJ *Pargana, Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

This pargana forms the easternmost portion of the tahsil, and extends from Digsir on the west to the Basti border on the east. To the north lie Mahadewa and Mankapur, while on the south the boundary is formed by the river Ghagra, which separates this district from Fyzabad. Besides the Ghagra, several other streams take a place in the drainage system of the pargana. The Terhi forms for a few miles the western boundary, and then flows east through the southern half of the pargana to join the Ghagra to the south-east of Nawabganj; it has a very irregular course and is joined by numerous small streams, the chief of which is the Bagluha, which flows eastwards from Digsir and joins the main stream near Chaukharia. In years of heavy rainfall, when the Ghagra itself is in flood, these rivers are unable to find an outlet for their waters, which pour over the surrounding country. In the north the pargana is traversed by the Chamnai, which for a short distance forms the boundary between Nawabganj and Mahadewa; it joins the Manwar on the Basti border. Close to the point of junction the Manwar is fed by the small Sujoi nala, which flows through the Tikri forest.

* Appendix, table XVI.

This forest comprises the bulk of the tract lying north of the Chamnai, and the portion lying within this pargana covers an area of some 8,002 acres. The villages in its neighbourhood are generally precarious, being exposed to the ravages of wild animals. During recent years a considerable area has gone out of cultivation and some villages are completely deserted, while in others only those cultivators remain who have any rights in the soil. The forest is included in the *uparhar* or upland portion of the pargana. Beyond the influence of the forest, the high-lying villages of this tract are the best in the pargana, having a dense population and being fully developed. The soil is a rich loam and large profits are derived from poppy cultivation. The *uparhar* is divided from the *tarhar* by a line of inferior sandy soil stretching across the pargana; it is broader at the extremities and narrow in the centre, but the strip is irregular in its course and the villages through which it passes are by no means uniformly bad. Below this uneven sandy belt lie the *tarhar* villages exposed to the influence of the Terhi and Ghagra. A large number of them are physically precarious, while many suffer under the further disadvantage of having an inferior class of tenants. The greater portion of this tract is annually flooded during the rains, but the damage done is seldom great. Along the Ghagra most of the villages have a wide belt of *manjha* between the cultivated lands and the river, acting as a sort of natural breakwater: it is usually covered with *jhau*, and its loss or addition does not materially affect the prosperity of the village.

One of the most striking features of this pargana is the collection of immense jhils in the north of the western half, between the railway and the Mahadewa and Digsir borders. These jhils are generally in the form of a horse-shoe, and probably represent an old channel of the Terhi which has become silted up. The largest is the Parbati Tal, of great depth and covering an immense area. To the north-east, near Tikri station, is the Argha Tal; to the north-west the Konrar Tal, extending into Mahadewa; and to the west the long and narrow Parsia Tal, between Parbati and the present channel of the Terhi.

The area of the pargana is liable to change from year to year owing to the action of the Ghagra. In 1904 it comprised, exclusive of the reserved forests, 70,720 acres or 110·5 square miles. Though it includes some of the best, it also contains many of the worst and most precarious villages in the district, and consequently the extent of cultivation is comparatively small. At the first regular settlement only 46 per cent. of the total area was cultivated. Thirty years later, at the last revision, 37,558 acres or 53 per cent. was under the plough, and since that time there has been a slight increase. In 1904 the cultivated area amounted to 39,439 acres or 55·8 per cent., while no less than 24,651 acres bore a double crop, the increase in this direction being very marked. Of the remaining area 12,887 acres were classed as barren, but over two-thirds of this was under water and the bulk of the remainder was occupied by roads and sites, only 858 acres being properly described as incapable of cultivation. The culturable waste, including 1,374 acres under groves, was 18,394 acres, mainly old fallow and unreclaimed land, most of which is of a very inferior description. The irrigated area is generally small, amounting to little more than 25 per cent. of the cultivation, but it should be remembered that irrigation is seldom required in the *tarhar* villages, which lie from twelve to fifteen feet below the level of the uplands. Wells can easily be constructed in most places and are employed in the *tarhar* for watering poppy and, in exceptionally dry years, wheat. In the *bhúr* tract, owing to the sandy nature of the soil, the construction of wells is difficult and some villages suffer from an insufficient supply of water. The areas sown in the kharif and rabi harvests are approximately equal, but the latter produces the more valuable staples. The chief kharif crops are maize and rice, while in the rabi wheat predominates, followed by peas, barley, poppy, and linseed. The area under poppy is remarkable, in some villages averaging as much as 20 per cent. of the whole rabi harvest.

The chief cultivating castes are Brahmans, Ahirs, Rajputs, Kahars, Musalmans, and Muraos. The last are mainly engaged in the poppy cultivation, but apart from them tenants of a high class are scarce. At the time of the last settlement 67·6 per cent. of the land was held by ordinary cash-paying tenants, 18·15 per

cent. by under-proprietors, 8·6 per cent. was cultivated by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht*, and 1·26 per cent. by coparcenary tenants; of the remainder 643 acres were grain-rented, and 652 acres held on nominal rents or rent-free. The average cash rate for the pargana was Rs. 4·47 per acre, but the difference between high and low castes was very marked and amounted to over 33·5 per cent. The former paid Rs. 3·58, the Rajputs being the most favoured, and the latter Rs. 5·39, Muraos averaging Rs. 6·89.

The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement was Rs. 38,652. This was raised at the regular settlement to Rs. 66,528, while at the last revision the small enhancement of 10·22 per cent. was taken, giving an incidence of Re. 1·78 per acre. The initial demand was Rs. 68,515 and the final revenue Rs. 69,208. This is exclusive of the nominal demand of Rs. 3,832 on revenue-free lands and jungle grants, but includes the revenue of alluvial villages in the south along the banks of the Ghagra and Terhi rivers. Several of these belong to the Maharaja of Ajodhya, and have, as well as those held by other taluqdars, been settled unconditionally for the full term: 27 mahals, paying Rs. 3,141, were assessed for a short period, expiring in 1906. A number of villages in the neighbourhood of the Tikri forest were also assessed for ten years only on account of their precarious condition.

The population of the pargana at the first Oudh census numbered 61,417 persons. This rose in 1881 to 68,511, and ten years later to 78,038. The last census showed a considerable decline, partly on account of the Ajodhya fair, but also by reason of the deterioration of the northern villages. The number of inhabitants was 76,242, of whom 40,247 were males and 35,995 females. Classified according to religions, there were 70,350 Hindus, 5,750 Musalmans, and 142 others, chiefly Christians. The pargana contains 128 villages, but, excepting Nawabganj itself, there are few of any size or importance. One or two places, such as Tulsipur, Lawabirpur, and Chandapur, have large populations, but each of these merely consists of a collection of hamlets scattered over a wide area. Nawabganj is the principal market, although a small bazar is held at Rameshwarganj in Tulsipur. The only fair is that at Maheshpur on the banks of the Ghagra

opposite Ajodhya, where large numbers of pilgrims assemble to bathe in the Ghagra on the full moon of Kartik and at the Ramnaumi in Chait.

The pargana is well supplied with means of communication. From Lakarmandi near Ajodhya a branch line of railway runs to Nawabganj and Mankapur, with stations at Katra, Nawabganj, and Tikri. The centre of the pargana is traversed by the main road from Fyzabad and Miranghat to Gonda, and this is joined at Nawabganj by the metalled branch from Lakarmandi. Other roads run from Nawabganj to Mankapur and Utraula and to Tarabganj and Colonelganj, both of these being metalled in places.

The early history of the pargana is very obscure. The tract is traditionally said to have been included in the stretch of country known as Ramgarh Gauri and to have been held by the Doms. The story goes that the Dom Raja Ugarsen was in 1376 overthrown by Rai Jagat Singh, the Kayasth subahdar, who thus obtained Amorha and all the neighbouring country. He bestowed this tract on one of his officers, named Newal Shah, a Bandhalgoti Rajput, who came from Amethi in Sultanpur. The Bandhalgotis seem to have retained their possession intact till within recent times. During the first half of the nineteenth century their property was largely absorbed by the Rajas of Mahdauna and Mankapur and by the Pandes of Singha Chanda. Other villages were obtained by Mahant Gur Narain Das of Lucknow. During the second half of the eighteenth century Nawabganj was built by Shuja-ud-daula, who also founded Wazirganj and laid out the garden known as the Harharpur Bagh on the banks of the Parbati Tal.

At the present time the villages of the pargana are divided into 250 mahals, of which 95 are held by taluqdars, 63 of them being sub-settled; eight in single, and 78 in joint, zamindari tenure, and 35 by pattidars. Of the rest, ten are the property of Government, six are fee-simple grants, and 18 villages, other than those owned by taluqdars, are sub-settled. The chief proprietor is the Maharaja of Ajodhya, who holds 27 villages and portions of two others. The Raja of Mankapur has 19 villages and ten mahals; six villages and 15 mahals belong to the Singha Chanda estate, and two villages and seven mahals to the taluqdar of

Ramnagar; two villages and one mahal are held by Mahant Har Charan Das; three mahals belong to the Kalhans taluqdar of Shahpur, and one village forms part of the Bisen estate of Birwa. The remaining villages are chiefly owned by Brahmans, Rajputs, and Bairagis, while a fair number belong to Musalmans and Kayasths and a few to Khattris, Banias, Kalwars, and Goshains. In addition to the area held by coparcenary bodies and sub-settlement holders, which amounts to nearly half the pargana, some 9,700 acres are in the hands of *birtias* and under-proprietors holding specific plots. The *birts* in this pargana are generally of the same nature as those in Mankapur, and the condition of both the *birtias* and the sub-settlement holders generally leaves much to be desired.

PACHPERWA, *Pargana* TULSIPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A village in the east of the pargana, lying in latitude 27° 31′ north and longitude 82° 39′ east, on the road leading from Utraula to Chandanpur and the Nepal frontier. This is joined a short distance north of the village by a road running to Tulsipur. Parallel to the latter runs the branch line of the railway from Uska in Basti to Tulsipur, with a station close to the junction of the two roads. The distance from Pachperwa to the tahsil head-quarters is 22 miles, and to Tulsipur 14 miles. The place contains a police station, a dispensary, a post-office, a cattle pound, an upper primary school, and a bazar in which markets are held weekly on Wednesdays. The population has somewhat declined of late years. At the last census it numbered 2,163 persons, including 1,148 Musalmans, most of whom are the descendants of converted Rajputs. The village has a total area of 1,641 acres, assessed at Rs. 1,680 and owned by the Maharaja of Balrampur.

PAHARAPUR, *Pargana* PAHARAPUR, *Tahsil* GONDA.

The place which gives its name to the pargana is a village lying in latitude 27° 10′ north and longitude 81° 44′ east, on the east side of the road leading from Colonelganj to Katra and Balrampur, at a distance of three miles north-east from Colonelganj. It contained at the last census a population of 1,905 inhabitants, including 139 Musalmans and a large number of Brahmans.

The village lands cover 1,444 acres, and contain the main site, standing on the banks of an abandoned channel of the Sarju, and several small hamlets. The village is divided into twelve mahals, the proprietors being Goshains, Rajputs, Bhats, Kayasths, and Brahmans. There is an upper primary school here, but nothing else of any interest or importance. The place does not appear to be of any great antiquity, and only rose to prominence when Raja Datt Singh of Gonda seized the pargana in 1692 and made Paharapur its head-quarters.

PAHARAPUR *Pargana, Tahsil* GONDA.

This small pargana lies in the west of the tahsil, being bounded on the north and east by pargana Gonda, from which it is separated by the Terhi river. To the west the boundary marches with the Bahraich district, and on the south with pargana Guwarich of the Tarabganj tahsil. The Terhi flows in a very winding course, generally between high banks, and rarely causes any damage to the adjoining lands. In the extreme west a few villages touch the Sarju and these are poor in quality, sharing the characteristics of the sandy and uneven country along that river. The whole pargana lies in the tract known as the *tarhar* and forms part of the lowlying belt of country in the valley of the Ghagra. The surface is almost everywhere level, except towards the Sarju, and the soil is a light loam of considerable fertility, though in places it almost degenerates into sand. The best part of the pargana is the south, in the neighbourhood of Colonelganj. The eastern portion is somewhat inferior, as the soil is more sandy, the population sparse, and the holdings large. The pargana is, however, in general a good one; but it is less secure than the upland tracts, as in wet seasons the crops are liable to serious damage from floods, while the climate is generally considered unfavourable.

The total area is 71,817 acres or 112 square miles. The proportion cultivated is large and has greatly increased of late years. At the first regular settlement it amounted to 65 per cent., while at the last assessment it amounted to 48,277 acres or 67 per cent., and since that time has steadily increased. The highest figure was reached in 1904, when the area under the

plough was 51,378 acres or over 71 per cent., while no less than 31,087 acres bore a double crop, the increase under this head having been still more rapid. Of the remaining area, 6,158 acres were classed as barren, but all of this save 113 acres were either under water or occupied by roads and buildings; 14,281 acres were returned as culturable, including 3,858 acres under groves, most of this being old fallow and generally too poor to repay cultivation. The irrigated area is small, amounting to about one-fourth of the land cultivated; but irrigation is usually unnecessary and is only applied in very dry years or to special crops such as poppy. Tanks form the chief source of supply, but wells can be constructed everywhere without much difficulty. The kharif is the principal harvest, in that it covers a larger area than the rabi. The chief crops are maize and rice, the former having grown in popularity to a surprising extent during late years; there is also a fair amount of sugarcane, which flourishes in most parts of the pargana without the aid of irrigation even in the hot weather. In the rabi wheat predominates, followed by peas, gram, barley, and oilseeds. There is also a moderate proportion of poppy cultivation.

The pargana is not fortunate in its cultivators, as Brahmans largely predominate, and after them come Kahars, Goshains, and Musalmans; the better cultivating castes, such as Kurmis, Muraos, and Ahirs, are comparatively scarce. Rents are generally low and collections difficult, chiefly owing to mismanagement in the larger estates. At the last settlement 73 per cent. of the land was held by ordinary cash-paying tenants at a recorded average rent of Rs. 4·74 per acre. Some 12 per cent. was cultivated by proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht*, 10 per cent. by under-proprietors and occupancy tenants, 876 acres were grain-rented, and the small remaining area held on nominal rents or rent-free. Rents are everywhere paid in the lump by holders, except in the case of Muraos cultivating land round large villages, when the rate is by the *bigha;* the *goind* area is, however, very small, chiefly owing to the dispersion of the population among small hamlets instead of being concentrated in single village sites.

The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement amounted to Rs. 60,217. This was raised at the regular assessment to Rs. 78,653, but, owing to subsequent additions to

the area, the expiring demand was Rs. 89,732. At the last revision an enhancement of 16·6 per cent. was taken, giving an incidence of Rs. 2·2 per acre of cultivation. The initial demand was Rs. 1,01,380 and the final revenue Rs. 1,04,390. This is exclusive of the nominal demand on revenue-free estates, which amounts to Rs. 1,233, and the nominal increase of Rs. 55 on permanently settled mahals. The enhancement would doubtless have been greater had not the old revenue proved somewhat excessive, as when introduced the pargana was in a backward state and the incidence was even higher than at the present time. The subsequent development has been greatly arrested by reason of the general indebtedness of the proprietors and endless litigation in connexion with some of the largest estates.

The population of Paharapur at the first Oudh census of 1869 was 74,139 persons. In 1881 the total was 75,260 and ten years later 84,952. The last enumeration of 1901 showed a marked decline, the number of inhabitants being 78,979, of whom 39,571 were males and 39,408 females. Classified according to religions, there were 67,664 Hindus, 11,310 Musalmans, and five others. The pargana contains 128 villages, but none of these save Birpur Katra are of any importance. Paharapur itself is an agricultural village of no great size, and Parsa Gondri, Silahri, Sarbangpur, and one or two others, though possessing large populations, merely consist of collections of small hamlets. The only bazar of any importance is that at Katra, but most of the trade goes to Colonelganj.

Means of communication are fair. The southern portion of the pargana is traversed by the railway, on which there are stations at Maijapur and Colonelganj. Parallel to this runs the road from Gonda to Bahramghat, from which one branch leads from Colonelganj through Paharapur and Katra to Maharajganj; another from Colonelganj to Bahraich; and a third from Balrampur to Katra, whence it continues to the west to join the last mentioned road. The Terhi is crossed by a number of ferries, of which a list will be found in the appendix.

Practically nothing is known of the early history of the pargana. Tradition relates that it was formerly held by the

Tharus and then by Brahmans. In 1692 the pargana was annexed by Raja Datt Singh of Gonda and the pargana then for the first time assumed its present name, having formerly been united with Guwarich. During Datt Singh's reign a great battle was fought between the Bisens and the nazim Alawal Khan at Balpur ghát on the Gonda road; it cost the life of the nazim himself and thousands of his followers. The pargana for a long period remained under the sway of the Bisens, but in the course of time the Kalhans acquired several villages in the south and the Pande Brahmans of Singha Chanda also gained a considerable estate. On the dissolution of the Gonda taluqa a part was acquired by the Maharaja of Ajodhya, while a number of villages were settled with the old proprietors.

At the present time the villages of the pargana are divided into 251 mahals, of which 88 are held by taluqdars, seven being sub-settled; 25 in single, and 95 in joint, zamindari tenure; 42 by pattidars, and one is bhaiyachara. The Maharaja of Ajodhya owns 19 whole villages and shares in nine others. The owner of Singha Chanda has 16 villages and two pattis; Bhaiya Harbhan Datt Ram of Ramnagar has nine villages and two pattis; and Mahant Harcharan Das has eight villages and four pattis, forming part of the Basantpur estate. The Raja-i-Rajgan of Kapurthala owns a single mahal, assessed at Rs. 80; the Gaur taluqdar of Inchapur Umri in Bahraich holds the single village of Simra; and the Janwar Rani of Gangwal owns one village, part of the Jairamjot estate. The Bisen properties are now very small. The Raja of Bhinga has two villages, and eight villages belonging to the Birwa taluqa, though these have now passed out of the hands of the former owner. Of the Kalhans, the taluqdar of Shahpur holds three villages and one mahal; the Thakurain of Kamiar has one mahal; and the Thakurain of Dhanawan, three villages and two mahals, the chief of which is Dewapasia. The pattidari and zamindari villages chiefly belong to Brahmans and Rajputs. Altogether Brahmans own 76 villages, Rajputs 24, Musalmans 13, Nanakshahis 8, Goshains 3, and Kayasths, Khattris, Bairagis, and Kurmis one each. A few mahals are owned by persons of other castes.

PARAS, *Pargana* DIGSIR, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A very large village in the south of the pargana, in latitude 26° 50′ north and longitude 81° 54′ east, some six miles south-east of Begamganj. The main site stands close to the bank of the Ghagra, and contains a large school and a bazar in which markets are held twice a week. The population, including that of the numerous hamlets, amounted at the last census to 3,864 souls, of whom 184 were Musalmans. The village is divided into two portions, known as Paras and Paras Benipur, and comprises four mahals, of which two are held directly by the Maharaja of Ajodhya and two are sub-settled. The area of the whole village is enormous, but is liable to vary by reason of the action of the Ghagra. In 1904 it was no less than 6,846 acres, and the revenue was Rs. 3,565.

PARASPUR, *Pargana* GUWARICH, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A large village lying on both sides of the road from Colonelganj to Nawabganj, in latitude 27° 2′ north and longitude 82° 8′ east, at a distance of nine miles south-east of Colonelganj and fifteen miles from the district headquarters. The main road is crossed by a branch road running from Balpur to Kamiar ferry near the Ghagra. The place derives its name from Raja Paras Ram, who was descended from the Kalhans chieftain, Achal Singh. Since its foundation the village has been the head-quarters of one of the Kalhans taluqas, and the present Rani of Paraspur resides in a substantial brick house standing to the east of the village. Adjoining Paraspur on the north-west and practically forming with it a single site is Ata, which is also the head-quarters of a taluqa belonging to the same clan. There is a curious local legend explaining the derivation of the name. It is said that Babu Lal Sah, the founder of the Ata branch of the family, was on one occasion hunting near Paraspur and met a faqir eating what appeared to be carrion. The holy man pressed him to join in the repast, and his repugnance yielded to hunger and a dread of the curse which was promised if he refused. To his surprise it turned out to be excellent *ata* or wheat flour, and at the faqir's bidding a pot full of the deceptive flesh was buried under the gateway of the fort which Lal Sah was building.

Paraspur has an area of 2,043 acres, assessed at Rs. 2,350 and owned by Rani Janki Kunwar. At the last census it contained a population of 2,602 persons, of whom 749 were Musalmans; Brahmans form the majority of the Hindu inhabitants. The place possesses a bazar in which markets are held twice a week, a post-office, a cattle pound, a middle vernacular school, and an aided school for girls. Ata is a still larger village, covering 2,399 acres and comprising a number of scattered hamlets. Its population amounted to 3,040 persons, including 273 Musalmans and a large proportion of Kalhans Rajputs.

The combined villages were constituted a town under Act XX of 1856 in March 1877, but, owing to their decline, the operations of the Act were withdrawn on the 17th of June 1902.

PASKA, *Pargana* GUWARICH, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A large village standing on the banks of the Ghagra in latitude 26° 56′ north and longitude 81° 45′ east, close to the junction of the Ghagra and Sarju rivers. The village consists of a main site and a large number of hamlets distributed over an area of no less than 5,767 acres, much of which consists of lowlying alluvial land subject to inundations from the river and at all times liable to disappear. It belongs to Thakurain Ikhlas Kunwar, the taluqdar of Paska, one of the six Kalhans estates, an account of whose family has been given in chapter III. There is a ferry here over the river, giving access to the Bara Banki district. Paska possesses a bazar in which markets are held twice a week, and an upper primary school. A fair is held here at the junction of two rivers at the full moon of Pus. The population of the village at the last census numbered 3,401 souls, of whom all save 107 Musalmans were Hindus. The prevailing Hindu castes are Ahirs and Rajputs of the Kalhans clan. The revenue of the village is Rs. 3,150. The suggestion has been made that Paska is the Pi-so-kia of the Buddhist writers, but the theory has been rejected on the ground that no ancient remains are to be found here.*

* Dr. Hoey J. A. S. B., 1900, p. 75; Major Vost, J. R. A. S., 1905, p. 442.

SADULLAHNAGAR, *Pargana* SADULLAHNAGAR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

The capital of the pargana is a village of no size or importance, lying in latitude 27° 7′ north and longitude 82° 23′ east, on the road leading from Qasba to Rehra, from which a branch takes off here and runs to Machhligaon and Mankapur, at a distance of 28 miles east of Gonda. The village was founded in 1786 by Raja Sadullah Khan of Utraula and is still held by his descendant, the present raja. It contains a police station, a post-office, a cattle pound, and a small bazar in which markets are held twice weekly. The village is a mere collection of mud huts with several small hamlets. The population at the last census numbered 1,155 persons, of whom 383 were Musalmans; among the Hindus Brahmans generally predominate. The village lands cover 825 acres and are assessed at Rs. 800.

SADULLAHNAGAR *Pargana*, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

This pargana lies in the southern half of the tahsil and forms part of the tract between the Kuwana and Bisuhi rivers, the former separating it from Utraula on the north, and the latter from Mankapur on the south-west and south. To the north-west lies pargana Gonda and to the east Burhapara. It had a total area of 4,630 acres or 101 square miles; its greatest length from east to west is 14 miles and the extreme breadth ten miles. The western end of the pargana stands high and was at no late date covered with *sál* forest; it is still thickly wooded in places with *sál* and *mahua* trees. The soil in this part is generally loam, and, though light in description, is well suited for certain classes of crops. Further east the land lies lower and the soil becomes firmer, the loam giving way to a fine clay of considerable fertility. The land on the banks of the river remains high throughout, and is still covered in places with a fringe of jungle. The high land near the Bisuhi extends only for a short distance inland, and east of Pipra grant the jungle consists merely of a thick strip of *jamun* trees. Along the Kuwana, however, the jungle is thicker and wider; much of it was sold before the first regular settlement in the form of revenue-free grants, and is included in two large villages known

as Rampur grant and Kishanpur grant, which extend for several miles along the river. In the extreme east the drainage of the central portion is carried off by a small tributary of the Bisuhi which joins that river in Burhapara.

Sadullahnagar was formerly one of the most backward parts of the district, but there has been a great improvement since annexation. At the first regular settlement the cultivated area amounted to 37,406 acres or 57 per cent. of the whole, while thirty years later it had risen to 43,471 acres. Since the last settlement there has been some further extension, and in 1904 the area under the plough was 45,646 acres or over 70 per cent., while 19,643 acres bore a double crop. Of the remaining area, 14,239 acres, including 1,197 acres under groves, were classed as culturable, most of this consisting of inferior jungle land that still awaits reclamation, especially in the western half and along the rivers; the barren area was 4,745 acres, but of this all save 152 acres was either under water or occupied by villages and roads. Means of irrigation are generally abundant, and in ordinary years over half the tilled area receives water. Wells form the chief source of supply and can readily be constructed in most places, the water level ranging from 12 to 16 feet below the surface. Tanks, too, are numerous and as a rule contain a good supply of water. The kharif is the most important harvest, and, as in Burhapara, rice is the chief staple; *arhar*, sugarcane, *kodon*, and maize are also grown to some extent. In the rabi wheat largely predominates, followed by peas, gram, oilseeds, and poppy.

In spite of the general fertility of the pargana the cultivation does not reach a very high standard. This is the more surprising as the bulk of the tenants are of low castes, chiefly Kurmis, Musalmans, Ahirs, and Muraos. The cultivation, too, is stable, the population dense, and the precarious area very small. At the last settlement 74 per cent. of the assessed area was held by ordinary tenants on cash rents. The average rate was Rs. 4·1 per acre, ranging from Rs. 5·04 in the case of Muraos to Rs. 3·97 paid by Brahmans and Rs. 2·33 by Rajputs. The higher castes are found mainly in the western villages, and almost all the best land is in others' hands. Some 13 per cent. of the land is cultivated by proprietors; about 2,000 acres are grain-rented,

1,040 acres are held by under-proprietors, and small areas are cultivated by occupancy tenants or held on nominal rents. The revenue at the summary settlement amounted to Rs. 24,048, and this was raised at the regular assessment to Rs. 54,320. The net final demand of the last settlement is Rs. 65,842, giving an enhancement of 23·3 per cent. and an initial incidence of Re. 1·7 per acre of cultivation. The total does not include the nominal assessment on the grants, which was fixed at Rs. 9,633 for the purpose of calculating cesses.

The population of the pargana in 1869 numbered 35,152 persons. At the second census of 1881 it had risen to 40,894, and ten years later to 53,476. In 1901 a further increase was observed, the total number of inhabitants being 57,590, of whom 43,125 were Hindus, 14,468 Musalmans, and three Christians. There are 112 villages, but none are of any importance. Sadullahnagar itself is a small place, while the largest village is Hathiagarh in the extreme south-east with 1,764 inhabitants. Practically the only bazar is that of Rehra in the west.

The western half of the pargana is traversed by the metalled road from Utraula to Mankapur. This is crossed at Rehra by the road from Srinagar to Qasba and Babhnan, while from the same point a branch runs north-west to Gumrighát on the Kuwana. From Sadullahnagar a small road leads west to Machhligaon and Mankapur. These are for the most part of an inferior quality, and better roads are required to give a more ready means of access to the neighbouring markets and the railway.

The pargana was formerly a tappa of Utraula and had no separate existence. That the eastern half was cultivated at an early date is proved by the existence of an unusual number of *farmans* by Aurangzeb and other monarchs. One of these dated 1633 granted the village of Ubridih to the ancestors of the present owners. The western half was covered with jungle, and till a comparatively late date was the haunt of predatory bands of Siyarkhawas, Qalandars, Banjaras, and other nomadic tribes. The condition of the tract is illustrated by the fact that in 1815 the revenue was only Rs. 6,925. From that time, however, it rapidly advanced, the development being due to the number of *birts* granted by the Utraula rajas, who sold almost all the

villages on this system, though they appear to have had but little real power. The rajas were hardly ever allowed to engage for the revenue, and in time lost all direct proprietary rights except the precarious collection of transit dues and feudal tribute. In 1819 the demand had risen to Rs. 13,312, and ten years later reached Rs. 24,067. It remained at this amount, with a few trifling variations, till 1838, when Darshan Singh raised the revenue to Rs. 35,107, a figure which was never again attained under native government. Shortly before annexation it had fallen to little over Rs. 20,000. In 1849 Pande Ram Datt Ram held the pargana in security for money advanced to the nazim, and succeeded in purchasing a number of the hitherto independent villages, which after the Mutiny were included in the sanad of his brother, Raja Krishn Datt Ram.

At the present time the 112 villages of the pargana are divided into 149 mahals: of the latter 56 are owned by taluqdars, four being sub-settled; 82 by zamindars, of which as many as 21 are held in sub-settlement; one is pattidari, and ten are fee-simple grants. Of the whole number 56 are owned by Musalmans, 24 by Rajputs, 21 by Kayasths, nine by Brahmans, and one each by Kurmis and Sonars. The Pande villages have, with the exception of one owned by the taluqdar of Ramnagar, been sold to the Maharaja of Balrampur, who owns 17 whole villages and parts of four others. The Raja of Utraula possesses thirty villages and one mahal, and the Rani of Majhgawan has one village. The zamindari villages are chiefly owned by Pathans of the Utraula house and are well managed, though the same cannot be said for those in the raja's estate. A large property is held by the Kayasths of Achalpur, who belong to the old qanungo family. Six villages in the western corner, known as the Khairidih estate, have a curious history. They had been sold to Bisen *birtias*, but in 1846 were mortgaged by the raja to Ram Datt Pande, who bought out the *birtias*' rights. After annexation the raja sought to redeem the mortgage, and eventually obtained a decree in the Privy Council, whereby he acquired both superior and subordinate rights. The Bisens then sued for sub-proprietary rights, but failed. After the release of Utraula from the Court of Wards in 1886, however, they set aside the

raja's authority, turned out the tenants of other castes, and cut down and sold the *sál* trees. In 1891 the raja sought to eject them, but in 1893 they appealed and established a claim to under-proprietary rights in specific plots. This decision they treated as referring to the whole estate, and usurped complete authority, being always in arrears, though their rents were almost nominal. At the last settlement the raja agreed to give them occupancy or under-proprietary rights, but the compromise was rejected, and the villages have been assessed in the ordinary manner.

SAHET MAHET, *Pargana* BALRAMPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

Sahet Mahet, or Set Mahet as the name should be written according to Dr. Hoey, is a large mound or series of mounds in latitude 27° 31′ north and longitude 82° 3′ east, between the Rapti and the road from Balrampur to Ikauna, at a distance of ten miles west of the former. The mounds cover an extensive area and lie on both sides of the district boundary, partly in the Gonda villages of Gangapur and Ghughalpur, and partly in Chakar Bhandar and Rajgarh Gulariha of Bahraich.

The place was first explored by General Cunningham, who made slight excavations, the results of which were afterwards published.* Mr. Benett subsequently visited the spot, but his researches were confined to a few days only, and but little was effected. In December 1884 Dr. W. Hoey was deputed to examine the place, and work was carried on here till the following May, the cost being defrayed by the Maharani of Balrampur. His report was published in 1892.† Dr. Hoey unhesitatingly identified Set Mahet with the ancient capital of Sravasti, but his views have been disputed.

At all events, Set Mahet represents the site of a large fortified city, full of Buddhist and Jain remains, and of great antiquity. For its size alone it must have been a place of note for a considerable period, and as it contained Buddhist monasteries at least as late as the twelfth century, it is probable that it was one of the places visited by the Chinese pilgrims, if not Sravasti itself. Much yet remains to be done in the way of further exploration,

* A. S. N. I., I, 330, and XI, 78.

† J. A. S. B., 1892, extra number.

and until this is carried out or the true site of Sravasti definitely determined, the question will remain a matter for conjecture.

The remains consist of Mahet, a large crescent-shaped fortress, with the concave side facing the river; Set, a smaller mound to the south-west; three small mounds to the west, north of the latter; seven similar heaps east of Set and opposite the southern face of Mahet; and a detached mound, locally known as the Orajhar on the south side of the road to Balrampur. This name, Orajhar, occurs also at Ajodhya, where it is said to mean "basket shakings" or the place where the labourers cleaned their baskets when returning home each evening.

Both General Cunningham and Dr. Hoey in their excavations attempted to identify each locality with the sites or buildings mentioned by the Chinese pilgrims with regard to Sravasti. In 1863 General Cunningham took measurements of Mahet, which he considered to have been surrounded with a massive brick wall with a ditch on the land side. The circuit he gave as 17,300 feet. The whole site was covered with dense jungle; in this he cut pathways to all the ruined eminences, and then began excavations to ascertain their nature. His discoveries included several small stupas and temples in Set, one of which contained a colossal standing Buddha with a fragmentary inscription bearing the name Sravasti, and supposed by him to have come from Muttra; the traces of some buildings on the Orajhar, but very little of any importance elsewhere. He again visited the place in 1876, with the express object of proving his identification of Set with the famous Jetavana monastery of Sravasti. He made excavations in twenty places, and discovered ten temples and five stupas, the others being mere mounds of rubbish. He also found a number of clay seals and votive offerings, and a few fragments of sculpture, but no inscriptions.

Dr. Hoey's endeavours were far more comprehensive and his finds of greater interest. He showed that the great citadel of Mahet had four gates and was divided into separate quarters: he found remains of Buddhist, Jain, and Brahmanical temples, and a large quantity of statuary and other articles. The only inscriptions were, however, of comparatively late date, and nothing was elucidated with regard to the history of the place.

The work of exposing the remains could not be completed owing to the exhaustion of the funds provided, and many of the buildings opened could only be examined in a cursory manner.

SHAHPUR, *Pargana* GUWARICH, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

This village lies in the western half of the pargana, in latitude 27° 1′ north and longitude 81° 40′ east, some two miles north of the Ghagra and seven miles south of Colonelganj. It adjoins Dhanawan and, like that village, is the head-quarters of a Kalhans estate, now owned by Thakur Nageshwar Bakhsh Singh. The remains of the old fort of the taluqdars are still visible on the west of the village, and within its circuit is the family residence. Shahpur possesses an upper primary school and a bazar, in which markets are held twice a week. The population in 1901 numbered 1,699 souls, including 182 Musalmans and a considerable proportion of Brahmans and Kalhans Rajputs.

SHEOPURA, *Pargana* BALRAMPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

A village in the north of the pargana, in latitude 27° 38′ north and longitude 82° 10′ east, some five miles north-east of Lalia police station. It lies off the road and is somewhat inaccessible. It only deserves mention as possessing a tahsil of the Balrampur estate, a small school, and a bazar, in which markets are held daily. Like the rest of the pargana, the village is held by the Maharaja on a permanent settlement. At the last census Sheopura contained a population of 1,076 inhabitants, including 128 Musalmans and a number of Brahmans.

SRINAGAR, *Pargana and Tahsil* GONDA.

A small village on the road from Gonda to Utraula, at a distance of 15 miles north-east of the district head-quarters. From the village a branch road leads west to Itiathok, while another takes off at Baglahi, a short distance south of Srinagar, and goes south-east to Rehra, Sadullahnagar, and Qasba. Srinagar itself is quite an insignificant village, and only deserves mention as possessing a police station, a post-office, a cattle pound, and a lower primary school. It contained at the last census a population of 688 persons, most of whom are Kurmis. The village

lands cover 593 acres, assessed at Rs. 900 and held by Goshains. Adjoining Srinagar on the east is the large village of Retwagara, which contains a bazar, in which markets are held twice a week.

TARABGANJ, *Pargana* DIGSIR, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

The head-quarters of the tahsil are located in latitude 26° 58′ north and longitude 81° 58′ east, on the road from Colonelganj to Nawabganj, a short distance east of its junction with that running from Gonda to Begamganj, and 15 miles from the district head-quarters. The tahsil lies within the limits of Dhondhepur, an insignificant village consisting of several scattered hamlets. Besides the tahsil buildings with the adjoining police station, post-office, inspection bungalow, and cattle pound, there is nothing at Tarabganj in the shape of a village or bazar. Dhondhepur itself contains a market, but nothing else of any importance. It covers an area of 1,675 acres, assessed at Rs. 2,140, and is held partly by Brahmans and partly by the taluqdar of Singha Chanda. The population at the last census numbered 1,557 souls, about one-third of whom were Brahmans.

The tahsil has been located at Tarabganj since its removal from Begamganj in 1876 on account of the damage done there by inundations of the Ghagra. The present site was chosen by reason of its central position on the high, sandy soil above the river Terhi.

TARABGANJ *Tahsil*.

This is the southern tahsil of the district and consists of a long and narrow strip of country between the Ghagra on the south, which separates it from the districts of Bara Banki and Fyzabad, and the Gonda and Utraula tahsils to the north, the boundary for some distance being formed by the Terhi and Chamnai rivers. To the east lies pargana Amorha of Basti, and to the west Hisampur of Bahraich. The tahsil is made up of the four parganas of Guwarich, Digsir, Mahadewa, and Nawabganj, each of which has been mentioned separately. It had in 1904 a total area of 392,855 acres or 614 square miles, but this figure is liable to considerable fluctuations from year to year by reason of the erratic action of the Ghagra. The total

excludes a small portion of the Nawabganj or Tikri reserved forest, of which 8,002 acres lie in this tahsil.

With the exception of half the pargana of Mahadewa and the northern portion of Nawabganj, the whole tahsil lies in the *tarhar* or lowlying tract and is exposed to the influence of the Ghagra and its numerous tributaries, of which the chief are the Sarju and Terhi. The soil is a light but fertile loam interspersed with occasional ridges of sand. It requires no irrigation and does well in dry years, benefiting at the expense of the rest of the district. The crops are chiefly maize and early rice in the kharif, and wheat and poppy in the rabi, the last being very extensively grown. The upper portions of Mahadewa and Nawabganj generally resemble the Gonda pargana, save that the dividing line between the *uparhar* and *tarhar* is less clearly marked, and in the north of Nawabganj great damage is done by the wild animals infesting the Tikri forest.

The tahsil is administered as a sub-division in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. The tahsildar resides at Tarabganj, an insignificant village, which has been the headquarters since the abandonment of Begamganj in 1876 on account of the encroachment of the Ghagra at the latter place. There is a munsif of Tarabganj, who holds his court at Gonda, and Bhaiya Sripat Singh, of Majhgawan, is an honorary munsif for pargana Mahadewa. For the purpose of police administration there are stations at Tarabganj, Paraspur, Colonelganj, Wazirganj, and Nawabganj, while a small portion in the north of the tahsil falls within the limits of the Gonda police circle. The distribution of the police in 1904 is shown in the appendix.*

The principal town in the tahsil is Nawabganj, which was formerly a municipality and is now administered as a notified area under Act I of 1900. Colonelganj is an Act XX town, and Paraspur was till recently administered in the same manner, but besides these there are few places of any importance. A number of villages have large populations, but, as has been mentioned in the various pargana articles, they consist in all cases of agglomerations of numerous hamlets. A list of the bazars, schools, post-offices, and fairs will be found in the appendix.

*Appendix, table XVII.

Means of communication are fair, metalled roads being scarce and only the extremities being traversed by the railway. The main line from Gonda to Burhwal and Lucknow passes through the extreme north-western corner of Guwarich, with stations known as Colonelganj and Katra or Sarju, and the branch line from Mankapur to Ajodhya traverses the eastern half of Nawabganj, with stations at Tikri, Nawabganj, and Lakarmandi ghát. The chief road is that from Gonda to Nawabganj and Fyzabad, crossing the Ghagra by the Miran ghát ferry. The branch to Lakarmandi is also metalled, as are portions of the road from Nawabganj to Mankapur. Of the unmetalled roads the chief are those from Nawabganj to Tarabganj, Paraspur, and Colonelganj; from Gonda to Colonelganj and Bahramghát; and from Gonda to Tarabganj and Begamganj. Other roads run from Wazirganj to Dhemuaghát on the Ghagra, from Tikri to Maskinwan and Chandradip ghát, from Balpur to Paraspur and Kamiar ghát, and from Colonelganj to Bahraich and Balrampur. The Ghagra and Terhi are crossed by several ferries, a list of which has been given in the appendix, and the latter river is bridged between Nawabganj and Miran ghát.

The population of the tahsil as first enumerated at the census of 1869 numbered 355,564 persons. The total rose in 1881 to 363,012, and ten years later to 385,560. The ensuing census saw a marked decline, partly owing to bad seasons and epidemics during the preceding decade, and partly to the absence at the time of the enumeration of large numbers of the people at a great fair held at Ajodhya. The number of inhabitants in 1901 was 364,993, of whom 186,857 were males and 178,136 females. Classified according to religions, there were 335,410 Hindus, 29,286 Musalmans, a very low proportion for this district, and 297 others, including 136 Sikhs, 128 Christians, 24 Aryas, eight Jains, and one Parsi. As in the Gonda tahsil, Brahmans are the most numerous Hindu caste, amounting at the last census to 71,618 souls; next to them came Ahirs, 36,555; Koris, with 35,134; Rajputs; 29,628, and Kahars, 19,390. Besides these, Kurmis, Muraos, and Pasis had over 10,000 representatives apiece, while other castes occurring in large numbers were Chamars, Banias, Kewats, Lunias, and Telis. The Rajputs are mainly of the

Kalhans, Chauhan, and Bisen clans, while there are many Sombansis, Bais, Surajbansis, and Bandhalgotis. Among the Musalmans, Sheikhs came first with 5,390 persons, and then Rajputs, Pathans, and Behnas. There are very few Julahas in this tahsil, and consequently no centres of the weaving industry.

The population is mainly agricultural, to a larger extent, in fact, than any of the other sub-divisions. According to the returns of the last census, nearly 70 per cent. of the inhabitants were directly dependent on the land and some 11 per cent. were engaged in general labour. The principal trades were those connected with the supply of articles of food, drink, and clothing, and fair numbers were returned as dealers and foreign merchants, but the other industrial occupations were very sparsely represented. The trade of the tahsil has declined with the decay of Nawabganj, for a long time the chief export market of the district.

TENGRAHA, *Pargana* DIGSIR, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A large and scattered village in 26° 58′ north and 82° 4′ east, at a distance of four miles west of Wazirganj, on the south bank of the Terhi, which forms the village boundary on three sides. It contained in 1901 a population of 2,062 souls, of whom the great majority were Brahmans. In Rampur, one of the hamlets of the village, there is a ferry over the river and a market is held there twice a week; a small fair also takes place at Rampur in Chait and is attended by some 3,000 persons from the neighbourhood. Tengraha is chiefly of interest as being the residence of the Pande taluqdars of Singha Chanda, an account of whose family and estate has been given in chapter III.

TIKRI, *Pargana* NAWABGANJ, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A small village in the north of the pargana, lying in latitude 26° 56′ north and longitude 82° 12′ east, on the east side of the road leading from Nawabganj to Mankapur, at a distance of six miles north of the former. Branch roads lead west to Wazirganj and east to Maskinwan and Chandradip ghát, the latter leaving the main road a short distance south of the village. The place is only deserving of mention as giving its name to a station on

the branch line of the Bengal and North-Western Railway from Mankapur to Lakarmandi ghát. The village itself is small, having at the last census a population of 879 persons, of whom 107 were Musalmans. It contains a lower primary school, but nothing else of any interest save a large deserted site, of which the history is unknown. The village lands cover 671 acres and are assessed at Rs. 705; they are divided into four mahals, of which two belong to the Raja of Mankapur, one being sub-settled, and the others are held by Musalmans and Bairagis. Tikri stands on the edge of the reserved forests of Nawabganj, which are generally known by the name of this village.

TULSIPUR, *Pargana* TULSIPUR, *Tahsil* UTRAULA.

The capital of the pargana lies in latitude 27° 30′ north and longitude 82° 25′ east, at a distance of 15 miles north of Utraula and 15 miles north-east of Balrampur. It is connected with both of these places by very inferior roads, while others lead east to Pachperwa and north-west to Haraiya and Chaudhridih. Communications have been much improved since the construction of the railway from Gonda and Balrampur to Tulsipur, which is now being extended to Pachperwa and Uska in Basti. The station lies to the south-west of the town near Debi Patan, the scene of the great fair, which has been separately described. A mile to the south, at the junction of the Utraula and Balrampur roads, are the remains of the large mud fort of the rajás of Tulsipur. The town is said to have been founded over 200 years ago by a Kurmi named Tulsi Das, but not long afterwards came into the possession of the hill rajas of Dang, who were afterwards better known as the rajas of Tulsipur. The property of the Chauhans was confiscated after the Mutiny and was bestowed on the Maharaja of Balrampur, whose representative still holds the proprietary right.

The town is a growing place with a thriving grain trade, which has rapidly increased since the construction of the railway. In 1869 Tulsipur contained but 2,292 persons; this rose to 3,422 in 1891, and at the last census the population numbered 4,287 souls, of whom 3,385 were Hindus, 881 Musalmans, and 21 of other religions. The town possesses a police station, a post-office,

a cattle pound, a large upper primary school, and a dispensary. The last was built and is maintained by the Balrampur estate, and to the same agency the substantial tahsil and grain market owe their origin. Rice forms the chief article of export, but there is a considerable retail trade in metal vessels, cotton fabrics, and other articles, much of this being in the hands of itinerant Nepalese traders. The village lands of Tulsipur cover 1,350 acres and consist for the most part of rice fields. On the east the level is broken by the Nakti *nala,* which flows close to the town and runs south to join the Burhi Rapti. The revenue is Rs. 1,104.

TULSIPUR *Pargana, Tahsil* UTRAULA.

This is one of the largest parganas in Oudh, and forms the northern portion of the tahsil and district. To the north and east lies the territory of Nepal, the boundary on the latter side being the Arrah river. To the south-east is the Basti district, separated from Tulsipur by the Arrah and Burhi Rapti; to the south pargana Balrampur, and to the west the Bahraich district, the dividing line in the latter case being the Gandhela stream. The northern portion of the pargana consists of reserved forest, which extends from the Nepal boundary at the foot of the hills to a varying distance to the south, the average breadth being little more than four miles. These forests, which have already been described in chapter I, cover a total area of 91,454 acres or 142·9 square miles. In this forest tract the ground is undulating, being slightly higher to the west than on the east, and is intersected by numerous hill torrents, which are confined by cliffs varying in height, but generally sufficient to preserve the neighbourhood from floods. The rest of the pargana consists of a strip of *tarai* land, covered in places in the north with forest and grass jungle. The whole tract is liable to inundation during the rains by reason of the constant overflows from the mountain streams. The latter generally leave behind them a thick layer of white sand, to the great detriment of the rice fields. The portion east of the Bhambhar *nala* is less subject to such inundations and is the richest part of the pargana. The soil throughout consists of heavy clay, admirably suited for the

production of late rice. South of the forest there are but few groves or trees, and the eye traverses for miles a hard grey plain, broken merely by the high ridges of the rice fields. In the south-east towards the Burhi Rapti there is a barren and almost uninhabited plain covered with high *khar* grass. In the rice tract the villages are built only on the slightly raised plots which escape the surrounding floods. The population is consequently compressed into a small area, and the houses are either of mud or else mere sheds of straw hurdles and leaves. These crowded and unclean habitations are naturally conducive to disease, and combine with the malaria of the *tarai* to render fever and dysentery endemic. The worst time is during October and November, after the rains, but the climate is unfavourable at almost every season of the year. Of late years, however, the health of the pargana has been improving, owing to the breaking-up of new rice fields for cultivation and the draining of swamps. Improved communications, too, have increased the material prosperity of the people, and their manner of living is becoming yearly more satisfactory.

The area of the pargana, excluding that of the reserved forests, is 280,987 acres or 439 square miles. At the first regular settlement as much as 62 per cent. was under cultivation, but since that time the area of the pargana has been altered, as shortly after the assessment 32 villages were transferred to Bahraich. In 1904 the land under cultivation amounted to 197,025 acres or 70 per cent., and of this 73,548 acres bore a double crop. Of the remaining area, 22,291 acres were classed as barren, but all save 1,169 acres were either under water or occupied by roads and buildings; 61,671 acres, including 1,865 acres under groves, were returned as culturable, more than half of this consisting of land that has never been reclaimed. The fallow area is large, owing to the fluctuating nature of the cultivation. Irrigation is almost unknown; the tanks and streams are occasionally employed, but the only wells are those constructed for drinking purposes. The kharif harvest covers a far larger area than the rabi, but the latter has greatly increased of late years owing to the spread of double-cropping. The chief staple is rice, which accounts for over two-thirds of the kharif

harvest. Next come maize and *kodon*, while the balance is made up by *urd*, *arhar*, and *juár*. Sugarcane is almost unknown in this pargana. In the rabi wheat takes the lead and is followed by gram, linseed, peas, barley, and *lahi* or rape. The last does exceedingly well and is a very valuable crop. There is a small amount of poppy cultivation, and the area in 1904 was 604 acres, representing a great increase during the past twenty years. The rice of Tulsipur is of the finest quality produced in India and is widely celebrated under the name of Patna rice. In the early part of the nineteenth century the bulk of it was exported by river to Patna in Bengal, and it thus came to be known by the name of the town from which it was distributed to the foreign markets.

The cultivation of the pargana is generally of an inferior quality, a natural result of the general backwardness of the tract. The whole forms a single estate and is the property of the Maharaja of Balrampur. Rents are almost universally paid in kind. Where money rents are taken, they are generally fixed by the plough and not by the area under cultivation; thus a four-bullock plough will be charged from Rs. 20 to Rs. 30 a year, and the owner will take the whole produce less village dues. Sometimes, again, the two systems are combined. The cultivators are chiefly Ahirs, who in addition to field work tend the great herds of cattle; next to them come Kurmis, Brahmans, and Koris. There are still considerable numbers of Tharus, who are cultivators of a high class and have been already mentioned in chapter III. The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement was Rs. 1,45,003. At the regular assessment this was raised to Rs. 2,05,360, but was confirmed in perpetuity as a special mark of favour to the Maharaja. The demand remains the same, but the total has been reduced by Rs. 18,420, consequent on the transfer of villages to Bahraich, while other small reductions have been made for various reasons, the present revenue being Rs. 1,86,633. The incidence in 1904 was Re. 0-15-1 per acre of cultivation, the lowest rate in the district.

The population of the pargana at the first Oudh census numbered 104,454 souls. This rose in 1881 to 132,175 in spite of the decreased area, and ten years later to 157,190. At the last census of 1901 a considerable decline was observed, the

total being 140,444, of whom 70,228 were males and 70,216 females. Classified according to religions, there were 111,630 Hindus, 28,765 Musalmans, and 49 others. The pargana contains 339 villages, but few of these are of any size or importance. The chief is Tulsipur, a growing town with an increasing population owing to the influx of Banias from Utraula and Nawabganj. Pachperwa is a village of considerable size, but besides this there is hardly a place with a thousand inhabitants.

Means of communication are poor, though they have greatly improved of late years. The railway from Gonda to Tulsipur was opened in 1897, and has recently been extended to Pachperwa and Uska Bazar in Basti, with a branch leading from Gaisanri to Jharwa in the forest near the Nepal borders. Roads lead from Tulsipur to Balrampur, Utraula, Pachperwa, and to Chaudhridih and Nepalganj. Besides these, a road runs from Utraula to Pachperwa and Chandanpur. Several other roads are maintained by the forest authorities and the Balrampur estate. Of the former the chief is that running along the southern boundary of the forest, and of the latter that from Tulsipur to Janakpur. Most of these roads are of a very inferior character, owing to the soft nature of the soil and the small amount of labour and money that has been expended on them. The road from Tulsipur to Utraula, which prior to the construction of the railway carried a very heavy traffic to Nawabganj, is one of the worst in the district, while the cross-country roads have to traverse a number of mountainous streams with stony beds.

In early days the pargana is said to have been held by the Tharus, who appear to have been practically independent, though they paid a tribute to both the Rajas of Balrampur and the hill chieftains of Dang. The latter claim to be Chauhans, and when they were driven out of the hills by the Nepalese, their leader, Raja Newal Singh, took refuge with the Rajas of Balrampur, by whose aid he was established in this pargana. In return for these services he agreed to pay an annual tribute, but the failure to redeem this promise on the part of himself and his descendants led to constant fighting. Newal Singh was succeeded by Dalel Singh and then by Dan Bahadur Singh, who held the property for a long

period and died in 1845. In 1828 he obtained, through the influence of the Governor General, a perpetual lease of the whole pargana at a fixed annual rent of Rs. 62,759. These were very favourable terms, as in 1800 the revenue had been Rs. 75,649 and for the next twenty-eight years it had fluctuated between Rs. 42,000 and Rs. 70,000. Dan Bahadur Singh was succeeded by his son, Drig Raj Singh, who in 1850 was driven out by his son, Drig Narain Singh. The dispossessed raja took refuge with the Raja of Balrampur and obtained assistance from Lucknow, whereby he recovered his power for a few months in 1855. Drig Narain Singh, however, renewed the unnatural conflict, which had its origin, it is believed, in a disgraceful quarrel for the possession of a Lucknow courtesan. He succeeded in capturing his father and placed him in confinement, where he died, it is said, through poison. During the two years 1854 and 1855 the revenue of the pargana was collected direct by the Oudh authorities and amounted to no less than Rs. 1,87,395 and Rs. 2,19,064, respectively. At annexation Drig Narain Singh declined to pay his revenue and was apprehended by the Commissioner and sent to Lucknow, the pargana being settled with the village headman and 10 per cent. of the collections being reserved for the raja's maintenance. In the meantime the Mutiny broke out and the raja was kept a prisoner in the Residency at Lucknow, where he died. His widow seized the estate, and her first action was to imprison Pirthipal Singh, the next heir, and Ram Singh, the leader of the Tulsipur forces. She confined them in a hut, but, finding it inconvenient to keep a continual guard over them, she had the place set on fire and they perished in the flames. The rani persisted in her attitude of resistance and remained on the side of the rebels to the last. With the Nawab of Farrukhabad and other leaders she was driven across the Nepal frontier, and refused the proffered amnesty. Her estates were confiscated and bestowed on the Raja of Balrampur.

UTRAULA, *Pargana and Tahsil* UTRAULA.

The town which gives its name to the pargana and tahsil is a considerable place lying in latitude 27° 19′ north and longitude

82° 25′ east, between the Rapti and Suwawan rivers, about a mile and a half north of the latter, some 20 miles south-east of Balrampur and 32 miles north-east of the district head-quarters. Through the town runs the road from Balrampur to Biskohar in Basti *viâ* Materiaghat on the Rapti. This is joined on the west of the town by the metalled road from Gonda and on the south by a similar road from Mankapur and Nawabganj. Other roads lead north to Tulsipur and north-east to Pachperwa, the latter leaving the Biskohar road at Materia.

The name Utraula is variously derived from *uttar*, signifying the northern town, and from Uttara Kunwar, a Rajput chief who is said to have been ruling here in the days of Humayun. It then contained a stronghold of the Rajputs, which was besieged by Ali Khan, the founder of the great Pathan house with whose history Utraula is intimately connected. Utraula was captured by Ali Khan in 1582, and the subsequent history of the Pathans has already been recorded in the previous chapters. The Rajas of Utraula held the place undisturbed till 1830, when Raja Drigbijai Singh of Balrampur attacked the town, burnt it to the ground, and carried away the Quran of the raja as a trophy. The Pathans returned, but thereafter the importance of Utraula was rather commercial than political.

The population at the first Oudh census numbered 5,988 persons. This fell in 1881 to 5,825, but has since gradually increased, the total in 1891 being 6,625, and at the last census 6,756, of whom 3,338 were males and 3,418 females. Classified according to religions, there were 3,692 Hindus, 3,061 Musalmans, and three others. The town consists of several muhallas lying on either side of the Balrampur road, the larger portion being to the north. It is said that in the days of Uttara Kunwar there were, in addition to the large brick fort, several outlying forts at a distance of about a mile from the town. Raja Ali Khan dug the great oblong tank to the west of the town on the site of his victory over the Rajputs. By the side of this stand his tomb and those of some of his descendants. Close to these on the east is a large stone tank, sacred to Dukharan Nath Mahadeo. This was built over a century ago by a Goshain of Balrampur; it stands in a picturesque garden, and close by are two other Goshain

monasteries. Further east is the old *abkari* godown, now used by the Opium department. From this point the main street commences and runs due east for three-quarters of a mile. To the north is the large brick house of the Utraula Rajas, built on the highest part of the ancient fort; it contains several court-yards, one of which is occupied by the tahsildar, while the rest of the building forms the residence of the raja's mother. Utraula possesses, in addition to the tahsil, a police station to the east of the fort, a dispensary opposite the thana, an inspection bungalow, a post-office, a cattle pound, and a large brick sarai on the extreme extremity of the town. There is a lower primary school and a small district board school for girls. The town lands of Utraula extend over a large area covered with magnificent groves of mango trees and divided into a number of small plots held by many proprietors, chiefly Pathans of the ruling house.

The place was formerly a commercial centre of some importance, as it was one of the chief collecting depôts for the rice of the *tarai* parganas, which was exported by road to Nawabganj. This trade has greatly diminished of recent years owing to the construction of the railway to Balrampur and Tulsipur and also to the indifferent nature of the road to Nawab-ganj prior to its metalling. The deflection of the traffic has resulted in the decline of the town, but a small trade is still carried on in grain, metal vessels, and coarse cloth. Markets are held daily in the town, while there is an insignificant bazar at Mazhardih every Thursday.

Utraula was constituted a municipality in 1876 and continued to be so administered till 1904. The affairs of the place were managed by a board of twelve members, of whom nine were elected. The income was originally derived from octroi, but after a few years its place was taken by a property tax, the other sources of revenue being the cattle pound, conservancy, and rents of lands, houses, and the sarai. In April 1904 the municipality was abolished and Utraula was constituted a notified area under Act I of 1900, managed by a small local committee under the presidency of the tahsildar. The details of income and expenditure since 1891 will be found in the appendix.*

* Appendix, table XVI.

UTRAULA *Pargana, Tahsil* UTRAULA.

This is a large pargana in the north-east of the district and forms a portion of the tract lying between the Kuwana and Rapti rivers. The former separates it on the south from Gonda and Sadullahnagar, while the latter divides Utraula from Balrampur on the north and the Basti district in the east. On the west, again, the pargana marches with Balrampur. The eastern limit has a strangely irregular appearance owing to the windings of the Rapti, which leaves the pargana in the furthest eastern extremity at its junction with the Suwawan, a smaller stream which intersects the pargana and flows through the centre in a direction roughly parallel to that of the other rivers. The Rapti is a mountain-fed stream of no great size or volume, but the current is swift and the river is liable to sudden flushes, which cause considerable damage to the banks. The villages adjoining it are subject to constant changes in their area from the action of the river, but in compensation for this the soil thrown up is a loam of great richness and produces special crops of high value. The banks of this river and the land immediately beyond them stand some ten or fifteen feet above the level of the surrounding country; this high land is succeeded by a lowlying area, which is exposed to floods, not only from the overflowing of the Rapti but from a series of large jhils, which unite their waters in the rains and flow through a regular channel into the Rapti in the north-east of the pargana. The villages of this area in many respects resemble the *tarai* tract to the north; they grow rice of fine quality, but the crop is precarious and frequently damaged by floods; the situation is unhealthy and the population shifting. The centre and south of the pargana belong to the *uparhar* proper. The Suwawan flows for the most part between high banks, but away from this river the land is flat and even, with no other elevations than such as have been artificially raised to regulate the flow of the flood water. South of this stream the land rises gradually and the late rice gives place to wheat as the staple crop, while towards the Kuwana the ground is too high for late rice and the soil is of a lighter quality than in the centre. The Suwawan and Kuwana were formerly fringed with jungle, which extended for some distance from their banks; this land

has now, for the most part, been reclaimed and brought under cultivation.

As a whole, the pargana is one of the best in the district. Though all parts are not equal in value, there is no really bad land; the sandy tracts of the southern parganas are here unknown, while the extensive flooding which forms a feature of Tulsipur and Balrampur is a rare occurrence and confined to a limited area.

In all, the pargana covers 125,026 acres or 197 square miles. At the first regular settlement 61 per cent. of this was cultivated, while at the following assessment a marked increase was noticeable, the area under the plough being 93,200 acres or over 74 per cent. In 1904 the cultivated area amounted to 92,067 acres or 73·6 per cent. of the whole, showing a slight but temporary decrease. Of the remainder 18,265 acres, including 2,256 acres under groves, were classed as culturable, and consisted mainly of land that still awaits reclamation; 14,694 acres were returned as barren, but most of this was either under water or occupied by roads and buildings, the actual amount of unculturable waste being no more than 446 acres. The double-cropped area is very large, amounting in the last year to 34,598 acres and showing an enormous increase over the figures of forty years ago. The kharif is the principal harvest, and rice the most important crop. Maize, a somewhat recent introduction, sugarcane, and *arhar* are also grown, but only to a comparatively small extent. In the rabi wheat largely predominates, and is followed by peas, linseed, gram, and barley. There is also a considerable area under poppy, which does well in the loam alluvium of the Rapti; this is usually cultivated by Muraos, who also raise a large amount of red pepper and spices. The pargana is well supplied with means of irrigation, as the water lies near the surface and the absence of masonry wells or tanks can easily be remedied, when occasion requires, by digging unprotected wells.

In another respect the pargana is very fortunately situated: the cultivators belong mainly to the lower castes and the husbandry reaches a high standard throughout. The remaining jungle land along the rivers still harbours a number of wild animals, which render the neighbouring villages somewhat precarious, but elsewhere the tract is fairly secure, save for the

danger of flooding in the north. Rents are still to a great extent paid in grain, Utraula lying midway between the *tarai* region on the north, where grain rents are universal, and the southern parganas, in which cash payments are the rule. Here the former system prevails in the rice-growing and alluvial villages in the north, while it has to a large extent been superseded in the wheat-producing area to the south. At the last settlement 45·78 per cent. of the pargana was held on cash rents and 17·17 per cent. was grain-rented. Under-proprietors and occupancy tenants held 3·13 per cent.; 30·43 per cent. was cultivated by the proprietors as *sir* or *khudkasht*, and the remaining ·49 per cent. was either nominally rented or rent-free. The figures for *khudkasht* are misleading, for much of the land shown under this head is really cultivated by *thekadars'* lessees, who differ in no respect from the ordinary tenant save that they are not protected against ejectment after the termination of the lease. Cash rents are fairly high, the average rate at the last settlement being Rs. 5·1 per acre. Low castes paid, as a rule, Rs. 5·16, the Muraos coming first with Rs. 6·6, and high castes Rs. 4·66. The latter are mainly Brahmans and Musalmans, while among the former Kurmis, Ahirs, Musalmans, and Muraos predominate. The low caste Musalmans are principally the descendants of converted Hindus and generally cultivators of a high stamp.

The revenue of the pargana at the summary settlement was only Rs. 43,965. During the early years of British rule it improved very rapidly, the cultivated acreage increasing by over 150 per cent., and at the regular assessment the demand was fixed at Rs. 1,17,100. This terminated in 1901, and at the last settlement a large enhancement, amounting to 23·55 per cent., was taken, giving a revenue of Rs. 1,49,806, exclusive of the nominal demand of Rs. 9,765 on the fee-simple grants and revenue-free estates. The initial incidence was 1·74 per acre of cultivation. The total includes Rs. 18,873 assessed on the alluvial villages along the Rapti, which were settled in 1902 for five years only.

The population of the pargana at the first Oudh census of 1869 numbered 72,464 souls. This rose rapidly during the following years, and in 1881 it reached 90,836, and ten years later

113,348. At the last census of 1901 a slight decline was observed as in most parts of the district, and the total number of inhabitants was 111,107, of whom 57,880 were males and 53,227 females. Classified according to religions, there were 72,832 Hindus, 38,272 Musalmans, an unusually high proportion, and three Christians. The pargana is divided into 267 villages, but of these the only place of any importance is Utraula itself. Several villages, and notably Itai Rampur, have large populations, but they consist merely of collections of hamlets. The chief bazars are at Utraula, Chamrupur, and Bank, the last containing a small sugar factory. Formerly a large trade passed through Utraula from the *tarai* to Nawabganj, but most of this has been diverted to the railway.

Means of communication have been much improved since the metalling of the roads from Utraula to Gonda and Nawabganj was taken in hand. Besides these, roads run from Utraula to Balrampur, Tulsipur, and Materia ghát on the Rapti, but these are for the most part in very bad condition and are almost impassable during the rains.

The early history of the pargana is absolutely blank, though a few ruined forts and deserted sites remain to attest an extinct civilization. It is said that the tract was formerly held by Rajputs, but nothing is known of their clan or family. They were dispossessed by the founder of the Utraula house, and ever since that time the history of the pargana has been almost identical with that of the Utraula taluqa, an account of which has already been given in chapter III. The pargana suffered terribly in the great famine of 1784, which resulted in its complete desolation. Almost the whole area became covered with jungle, which formed the haunt of numerous robber bands. The Utraula Rajas failed to recover their former position and were constantly subject to attacks from outside. The state of the pargana is illustrated by the fact that in 1800 the revenue was only Rs. 30,974. From that time, however, it rose gradually to Rs. 64,528 in 1826, to Rs. 89,859 in 1842, and to Rs. 94,242 in the next year. This was the highest point ever attained under native government, and from that time till annexation the collections averaged about Rs. 60,000.

At the present time the 267 villages of the pargana are divided into 283 mahals. Of the latter 85, of which 31 are sub-settled, are held by taluqdars; 57, including 5 sub-settled mahals, by single zamindars; 132 by coparcenary bodies, while eight are held in fee-simple and one is *nazul*. Of the whole number 173 villages are owned by Musalmans, 38 by Kayasths, 25 by Rajputs, 18 by Brahmans, 9 by Goshains, and 2 each by Banias and Jats. The Raja of Utraula owns 38 villages and 3 mahals, as well as one jungle grant; one village and six grants belong to the Maharaja of Balrampur, and one mahal and one grant to the Kalhans taluqdar of Kamiar. The Balrampur property was purchased from the Singha Chanda estate and is situated near the Kuwana river. The grants, which were sold before the first regular settlement, have been brought largely under cultivation and are in a prosperous condition. The zamindari villages belong principally to Pathans of the Utraula family, several of whom have large estates and are in prosperous circumstances.

A large number of the coparcenary villages pay a *malikana* to the Raja of Utraula, ranging from 10 to 50 per cent. of the Government revenue. This arose from the fact that the Utraula Rajas were in former days allowed a certain number of villages revenue-free, while the demand for the rest of the pargana was collected by the nazims direct, though occasionally the raja took the engagement for the whole tract. He was always recognized as the pargana lord, and as such retained his right to the small feudal tribute and to manorial dues, while all titles to real property emanated from him. These rights he sold, when pressed for money, to the heads of the villages, who thus acquired a full zamindari status. At the beginning of the nineteenth century *birts* of this nature had been granted in all but a few villages which formed the raja's private property. It would appear, however, that he retained some indefinite rights to cesses, which were only in force when he held an engagement for the whole pargana. At the regular settlement it was claimed that the zamindars should be treated as under-proprietors on the *chaharam* system, but Mr. Benett pointed out the injustice of the claim and suggested the existing arrangement as a compromise. The

birtias were recorded as zamindars, but the raja was given a *malikana* of 10 per cent. Great difficulty has arisen from the fact that the situation was not understood by either the courts or the persons concerned, and that the *malikana* has to be collected by the estate, the result being an endless succession of law suits ruinous to both sides.

UTRAULA *Tahsil.*

This tahsil is the largest in the whole of Oudh, and comprises the northern and eastern half of the district. To the north and north-east lie the territories of Nepal; to the east the Basti district, which also constitutes a portion of the southern boundary; the rest being formed by the parganas of Nawabganj and Mahadewa in the Tarabganj tahsil. To the west lie pargana Gonda and the Bahraich district. The area is 907,103 acres or 1,417 square miles, but this excludes the Tulsipur reserved forest in the north, covering 91,454 acres or 192·9 square miles, and a small portion of the Tikri reserved forest in the extreme south with an area of about 4,214 acres, so that the whole of the tahsil extends over little less than 1,567 square miles. It is made up of the seven parganas of Tulsipur, Balrampur, Utraula, Sadullahnagar, Mankapur, Burhapara, and Babhnipair, each of which has been separately described. The tahsil exhibits very diverse physical characteristics. The north of Tulsipur is covered with a narrow belt of *sál* forests, extending southwards from the foot of the hills. Below this almost the whole of the two permanently settled parganas of Balrampur and Tulsipur as well as the northern half of Utraula lie in the *tarai*, a low alluvial tract with a stiff clay soil admirably suited for the production of winter rice. This *tarai* country is drained by the Rapti, Burhi Rapti, and Suwawan rivers and by the innumerable torrents which flow southwards from the hills. The southern half lies in the *uparhar* or upland tract, a stretch of fertile loam soil with much wheat and poppy cultivation, but broken by several streams such as the Kuwana, Bisuhi, and Manwar, along which there are still jungles of *sál* and other trees, in many places of considerable density. The poorest portion of the *uparhar* is pargana Mankapur, in which the soil is often light and weak, while

the villages are in many cases precarious owing to the neighbourhood of the Tikri forest and the various private jungles.

Up to the time of the first regular settlement the two northern parganas formed a separate tahsil of Balrampur, but this was amalgamated with Utraula and the whole is now administered as a sub-division in the charge of a full-powered officer on the district staff. The head-quarters of the tahsildar are at Utraula, while at Balrampur the Maharaja exercises the powers of an honorary magistrate of the second class. The administrative and judicial work of the tahsil is lighter than elsewhere in the district, partly because the inhabitants are less civilized and therefore do not so readily have recourse to the courts, but in the main because the executive machinery of the Balrampur estate is largely self-contained. The only civil court is that of the munsif of Utraula. For the purpose of police administration there are stations at Utraula, Balrampur, Tulsipur, Pachperwa, and Lalia to the north of the Kuwana, and to the south at Sadullahnagar, Andhiari, and Birpur.

Means of communication are somewhat inferior in most parts of the tahsil, although a great improvement has been effected during recent years. The extreme south is traversed by the main line of the Bengal and North-Western system, with stations at Babhnan, Chhapia, Maskinwan, Mankapur, and Bidianagar. From Mankapur a branch line runs south to Nawabganj and Lakarmandi. The northern half is traversed by the line from Gonda to Balrampur, Tulsipur, and Uska Bazar, with stations at Balrampur, Kawapur, Tulsipur, Gaisanri, and Pachperwa, with a branch leading north from Gaisanri to Jharwa in the forest near the Nepal frontier. The metalled roads include those from Balrampur and Utraula to Gonda and from Utraula to Nawabganj, but apart from these most of the roads are of a very inferior description, being almost impassable during the rains, and their inefficiency is a serious check to development. Among the chief roads are those from Balrampur to Bahraich, Chaudhridih, Srinagar, Utraula, Tulsipur, and Pachperwa; from Utraula to Tulsipur and to Pachperwa and Chandanpur; from Chaudhridih to Khargupur and Tulsipur; from Sadullahnagar to Babhnan, Mankapur, and Rehra, and from Tikri to Maskinwan

and Chandradip ghát. The rivers are bridged where crossed by the railways and metalled roads, but elsewhere the passage has to be effected by ferries, a list of which will be found in the appendix. In addition to the roads already mentioned there is a number of roads maintained by the Forest department for the purpose of facilitating export.

The principal towns of the tahsils are the municipality of Balrampur, the notified area of Utraula, and Tulsipur, but besides these there are few places of any size or importance. The pargana capitals and police stations have been described separately, as also have some of the larger villages and the places of archæological and other interest, such as Sahet Mahet, Debi Patan, and Chhapia. The bazars, fairs, schools, and post-offices of the tahsil are shown in the appendix.

The first enumeration of the population was that of 1869, when the tahsil contained 465,735 inhabitants. During the following twelve years the increase was very rapid and in 1881 the total was 556,729; ten years later it was found that the rate of increase had been well maintained, the population being 669,497. The ensuing decade showed a decline but not so great as in other parts of the district. In 1901 the tahsil contained 654,181 inhabitants, of whom 333,277 were males and 320,904 females. Classified according to religions, there were 522,465 Hindus, 131,517 Musalmans, and 199 others, including 107 Christians, 87 Sikhs, and five Aryas. Among the Hindus, Ahirs came first with 78,324 representatives, in this tahsil exceeding the Brahmans, of whom there were 73,129. Next came Kurmis with 62,168; Koris with 57,630; Muraos, 23,907; Banias, 17,494; Chamars, 17,098; Pasis, 16,799, and Rajputs, 15,110. Besides these Kahars, Telis, and Barhais had over 10,000 representatives apiece, while other strong castes were Bhars, Dhobis, Kayasths, Lunias, and Kalwars. The Rajputs of this tahsil are mainly Bisens, who numbered 9,760; no other clan had 1,000 representatives, but there are fair numbers of Bais, Chauhans, and Surajbansis. Among the Musalmans, who are unusually numerous, converted Rajputs take the lead, amounting to 32,187 persons, of whom one-third were Chauhans, while the rest were chiefly Bais, Bisens, Bhale Sultans, and Gautams. After them came Sheikhs

with 12,326; Julahas, 11,737; Faqirs, 11,233, and Pathans, 9,650. There are also large numbers of Behnas, Barhais, Telis, and Saiyids.

The census returns show that the majority of the population are engaged in agriculture, the number of persons directly dependent on the land being about 61 per cent., but this is a much lower figure than the average for the rest of the district. As many as 13 per cent. were returned as general labourers, a considerable proportion being engaged under the Forest department and in cognate employments, while the construction of the railway was doubtless to some extent responsible for their presence. There are also more herdsmen and cattle breeders than in the other parts of the district. The chief trades are, as usual, those connected with the supply of food, drink, and clothing, while next to this come transport and storage, and work in timber and forest produce. One noticeable feature of the population of this tahsil is the unusual number of beggars, for at the last census no fewer than 16,547 persons derived a living from mendicancy, and this figure was exclusive of those connected with any religious order.

WAZIRGANJ, *Pargana* MAHADEWA, *Tahsil* TARABGANJ.

A large village on the southern borders of the pargana, lying in latitude 26° 57′ north and longitude 82° 7′ east, on the main road from Fyzabad and Nawabganj to Gonda, at a distance of 16 miles south-east of the district head-quarters. Branch roads lead south-west to Dhemua ghát on the Ghagra, and east to join the road from Nawabganj to Utraula near Tikri station. Adjoining Wazirganj on the north is the village of Mahadewa, which gives its name to the pargana. Wazirganj is called after the market built by Asaf-ud-daula, who also erected here a country seat, known as the Jamshed Bagh, with a mosque, courts, and numerous dwelling houses on the banks of the large Konrar jhil, which lies to the west of the village. These buildings are still to be seen, although they are almost wholly ruinous. In the days of Amjad Ali Shah the garden, which covers a large space and is surrounded by a brick wall, together with the adjoining lands, was given to Baqar Ali Khan, the munshi of the minister Amin-ud-daula and a resident of Fyzabad. Wazirganj now contains a

police station, a post-office, a cattle pound, an inspection bungalow, and a military encamping ground. The bazar is no longer of any importance, the trade having been diverted to the neighbouring centres owing to the construction of the railway. The village lands cover 875 acres and are assessed at Rs. 1,395. They are divided into 12 mahals, partly the property of Government and partly held by Brahmans, Rajputs, and Musalmans. The population has fallen of late years, as in 1891 it numbered 2,261 persons, while at the last census the total was 1,968, including 428 Musalmans and a large community of Brahmans.

GAZETTEER

OF

GONDA.

APPENDIX.

GAZETTEER

OF

GONDA.

APPENDIX.

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TABLE I.—*Population by tahsils*, 1901.

Tahsil.	Total.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.	Persons.	Males.	Females.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
Gonda	384,021	194,070	189,951	331,130	167,483	163,647	52,648	26,500	26,148	243	87	156
Tarabganj ...	364,993	186,857	178,136	335,410	171,714	163,696	29,286	14,982	14,304	297	161	136
Utraula	654,181	333,277	320,904	522,465	266,039	256,426	131,517	67,119	64,398	199	119	80
Total ...	1,403,195	714,204	688,991	1,189,005	605,236	583,769	213,451	108,601	104,850	739	367	372

TABLE II.—*Population by thanas*, 1901.

Serial number of thana.	Name of thana.	Total population.			Hindus.			Musalmans.			Others.		
		Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.	Total.	Males.	Females.
1	Tarabganj ...	102,229	51,615	50,614	96,469	48,672	47,797	5,758	2,941	2,817	2	2	...
2	Paraspur ...	67,020	34,018	33,002	61,677	31,405	30,272	5,224	2,554	2,670	119	59	60
3	Colonelganj ...	109,283	55,405	53,878	94,080	47,767	46,313	15,167	7,617	7,550	36	21	15
4	Gonda	122,691	62,422	60,269	106,457	54,002	52,455	16,006	8,321	7,685	228	99	129
5	Wazirganj ...	52,320	27,400	24,920	47,251	25,155	22,096	4,950	2,189	2,761	119	56	63
6	Nawabganj ...	63,120	32,895	30,225	58,495	30,466	28,029	4,599	2,411	2,188	26	18	8
7	Katra	74,964	37,857	37,107	66,064	33,229	32,835	8,896	4,625	4,271	4	3	1
8	Andhiari ...	73,109	37,415	35,694	66,130	33,963	32,167	6,918	3,418	3,500	61	34	27
9	Itiathok ...	94,079	47,487	46,592	81,837	41,436	40,401	12,237	6,047	6,190	5	4	1
10	Srinagar ...	54,183	27,221	26,962	45,867	22,911	22,956	8,315	4,309	4,006	1	1	...
11	Utraula... ...	136,191	70,667	65,524	94,542	48,787	45,755	41,612	21,863	19,749	37	17	20
12	Sadullahnagar ...	87,537	44,396	43,141	65,809	33,643	32,166	21,725	10,751	10,974	3	2	1
13	Birpur	55,847	27,883	27,964	51,192	25,453	25,739	4,654	2,429	2,225	1	1	...
14	Balrampur ...	80,614	41,550	39,064	65,215	33,511	31,704	15,351	8,013	7,338	48	26	22
15	Tulsipur ...	102,090	50,498	51,592	82,821	40,718	42,103	19,228	9,761	9,467	41	19	22
16	Lalia	75,208	39,312	35,896	67,651	35,495	32,156	7,557	3,817	3,740	...	...	...
17	Pachperwa ...	52,710	26,163	26,547	37,448	18,623	18,825	15,254	7,535	7,719	8	5	3
	Total ...	1,403,195	714,204	688,991	1,189,005	605,236	583,769	213,451	108,601	104,850	739	367	372

TABLE III.—*Vital statistics.*

Year.	Births.				Deaths.			
	Total.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1,000. *	Total.	Males.	Females.	Rate per 1,000. *
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
1891 ...	53,399	28,374	25,025	36·60	36,260	19,410	16,850	24·85
1892 ...	54,845	29,002	25,843	37·58	62,969	33,194	29,775	43·15
1893 ...	62,010	32,773	29,237	42·49	38,137	19,624	18,513	26·13
1894 ...	47,321	24,922	22,399	32·43	69,038	36,287	32,751	47·31
1895 ...	39,199	20,697	18,502	26·86	48,554	26,019	22,535	33·27
1896 ...	41,846	22,037	19,809	28·67	51,269	28,506	22,763	35·13
1897 ...	39,037	20,808	18,229	26·75	62,742	36,214	26,528	43·00
1898 ...	51,461	26,892	24,569	35·27	32,682	17,769	14,913	22·40
1899 ...	66,014	34,211	31,803	45·24	48,642	25,924	22,718	33·33
1900 ...	54,002	28,249	25,753	37·01	42,428	22,993	19,435	29·07
1901 ...	55,001	28,592	26,409	39·20	37,340	20,105	17,235	26·61
1902 ...	60,574	31,298	29,276	43·16	37,324	19,654	17,670	26·60
1903 ...	63,921	33,126	30,795	45·55	45,117	23,179	21,938	32·15
1904 ...	65,220	33,783	31,437	46·47	45,344	22,726	22,618	32·31
1905 ...								
1906 ...								
1907 ...								
1908 ...								
1909 ...								
1910 ...								
1911 ...								
1912 ...								
1913 ...								
1914 ...								

* The rates from 1891 to 1900 are calculated from the returns of the 1891 census.

TABLE IV.—*Deaths according to cause.*

Year.	Total deaths from—					
	All causes.	Plague.	Cholera.	Small-pox.	Fever.	Bowel complaints.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1891	36,260	...	3,319	979	26,476	267
1892	62,969	...	16,280	886	39,343	235
1893	38,137	...	3,672	576	26,602	168
1894	69,038	...	14,253	345	48,233	312
1895	48,554	...	4,160	77	39,266	256
1896	51,269	...	4,405	2,002	38,281	216
1897	62,742	...	2,905	5,490	45,280	445
1898	32,682	...	83	140	26,020	82
1899	48,642	...	52	250	37,406	102
1900	42,428	...	4,010	21	31,631	87
1901	37,340	...	1,856	36	28,736	72
1902	37,324	1	375	45	29,332	56
1903	45,117	808	879	553	31,824	98
1904	45,344	1,898	2,022	572	31,424	77
1905						
1906						
1907						
1908						
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						
1913						
1914						

TABLE V.—*Statistics of cultivation and irrigation*, 1311 *fasli*.

Pargana and tahsil.	Total area.	Waste.	Culturable.	Cultivated.						Double cropped.
				Irrigated.				Dry.	Total.	
				Total.	Wells.	Tanks.	Other sources.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Paharapur	71,817	6,158	14,281	12,277	2,609	9,572	96	39,101	51,378	31,087
Gonda	324,583	28,577	77,328	107,548	55,133	52,208	207	111,130	218,678	110,437
Total, tahsil Gonda ...	396,400	34,735	91,609	119,825	57,742	61,780	303	150,231	270,056	141,524
Digsir	101,331	14,093	28,731	18,066	6,645	11,172	249	40,441	58,507	39,305
Guwarich	163,930	23,500	39,674	18,896	5,240	13,454	202	81,860	100,756	34,944
Mahadewa	56,874	4,615	16,072	11,670	6,226	5,438	6	24,517	36,187	21,678
Nawabganj	78,722*	12,887	18,394	10,944	6,304	4,580	60	28,495	39,439	24,651
Total, tahsil Tarabganj ...	400,857	55,095	102,871	59,576	24,415	34,644	517	175,313	234,889	120,578

* Includes 8,002 acres of forest.

TABLE V.—*Statistics of cultivation and irrigation*, 1311 *fasli*—(concluded).

Pargana and tahsil.	Total area.	Waste.	Culturable.	Cultivated.						Double cropped.
				Irrigated.				Dry.	Total.	
				Total.	Wells.	Tanks.	Other sources.			
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.	Acres.
Utraula...	125,026	14,694	18,265	37,487	14,697	18,458	4,332	54,580	92,067	34,598
Mankapur	77,875*	5,673	28,364	20,705	13,680	6,620	405	18,919	39,624	20,015
Sadullahnagar	64,630	4,745	14,239	23,574	15,395	7,781	398	22,072	45,646	19,643
Burhapara	49,347	4,292	9,167	20,298	12,223	8,036	39	15,590	35,888	15,751
Babhnipair	42,436	4,758	7,482	19,564	12,137	7,166	261	10,632	30,196	14,005
Balrampur	271,016	26,220	41,726	17,765	3,547	12,954	1,264	185,305	203,070	95,137
Tulsipur	372,441†	22,291	61,671	1,831	74	973	784	195,194	197,025	73,548
Total, tahsil Utraula ...	1,002,771	82,673	180,914	141,224	71,753	61,988	7,483	502,292	643,516	272,697
Total for the district ...	1,800,028‡	172,503	375,394	320,625	153,910	158,412	8,303	827,836	1,148,461	534,799

* Includes 4,214 acres of forest.
† " 91,454 " "
‡ " 103,670 " "

TABLE VI.—*Area in acres under the principal crops, tahsil Gonda.*

Year.	Rabi.							Kharif.					
	Total.	Wheat alone.	Barley alone.	Peas.	Gram alone and mixed.	Opium.	Oilseeds.	Total.	Rice.	Maize.	Kodon.	Sugar-cane.	Arhar alone and mixed.
Fasli.													
1305-6 ...	170,196	52,464	24,700	58,475	...	4,393	...	192,354	103,822	54,378	5,584	7,683	14,696
1307	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1308	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1309	187,251	63,830	8,555	34,205	49,758	3,956	13,672	202,701	109,351	61,066	4,255	6,185	12,104
1310	189,326	67,747	7,371	33,956	46,768	3,393	17,450	203,631	102,964	67,848	2,110	6,023	14,711
1311	211,915	74,215	9,084	41,453	41,391	3,665	29,383	199,546	101,426	68,752	2,522	6,032	11,285
1312	192,501	74,294	7,988	39,370	36,294	2,266	20,696	202,015	111,301	61,285	1,828	7,525	11,604
1313													
1314													
1315													
1316													
1317													
1318													
1319													
1320													
1321													

* No returns, owing to settlement operations.

TABLE VI.—*Area in acres under the principal crops, tahsil Tarabganj.*

Year.	Rabi.							Kharif.					
	Total.	Wheat alone.	Barley alone.	Peas.	Gram alone and mixed.	Opium.	Oilseeds.	Total.	Rice.	Maize.	Kodon.	Sugar-cane.	Arhar alone and mixed.
Fasli.													
1305	138,634	22,686	17,758	19,883	42,478	10,858	7,383	184,977	71,205	76,048	7,501	6,316	8,034
1306	164,219	44,555	33,148	49,426	...	9,140	...	184,364	76,885	77,381	7,672	4,979	7,250
1307	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1308	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1309	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1310	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1311	188,658	59,615	18,111	31,685	34,879	9,534	10,207	194,726	65,520	99,420	4,252	4,478	2,591
1312	169,239	56,934	17,094	26,612	31,036	7,776	6,704	195,201	75,919	87,553	4,319	6,225	3,240
1313													
1314													
1315													
1316													
1317													
1318													
1319													
1320													
1321													

* No returns, owing to settlement operations.

TABLE VI.—*Area in acres under the principal crops, tahsil Utraula.*

Year.	Rabi.							Kharif.					
	Total.	Wheat alone.	Barley alone.	Peas.	Gram alone and mixed.	Opium.	Oilseeds.	Total.	Rice.	Maize.	Kodon.	Sugar-cane.	Arhar alone and mixed.
Fasli.													
1305	325,696	77,834	18,537	33,807	70,652	10,843	44,666	472,849	289,491	61,428	39,930	8,699	37,259
1306	368,627	85,586	16,007	47,954	83,386	10,621	57,207	482,287	335,888	45,872	30,915	9,518	29,901
1307	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1308	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1309	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1310	*	...	...	...	...	...	...	*	...	...	...	...	...
1311	446,146	131,971	7,598	54,167	99,913	10,245	96,941	469,588	301,418	80,983	28,450	7,291	21,745
1312	375,093	121,212	6,285	59,834	74,999	7,413	64,513	505,315	340,602	73,871	28,863	8,865	31,645
1313													
1314													
1315													
1316													
1317													
1318													
1319													
1320													
1321													

* No returns, owing to settlement operations.

TABLE VII.—*Criminal justice.*

Year.	Number of persons convicted or bound over in respect of—												Cases under—	
	Offences against public tranquillity (chapter VIII).	Offences affecting life.	Grievous hurt.	Rape.	Cattle theft.	Criminal force and assault.	Theft.	Robbery and dacoity.	Receiving stolen property.	Criminal trespass.	Bad livelihood.	Keeping the peace.	Opium Act.	Excise Act.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1896 ...	83	263	53	...	...	78	384	7	96	492	88	80	21	3
1897 ...	68	308	76	...	...	35	567	21	119	715	85	99	14	13
1898 ...	85	224	49	...	...	50	378	25	120	344	94	63	8	23
1899 ...	121	207	27	...	...	36	251	12	59	245	100	126	1	9
1900 ...	128	152	44	...	...	23	334	10	84	301	57	38	6	6
1901 ...	161	181	29	1	...	37	224	1	65	208	84	80	4	9
1902 ...	105	166	54	1	...	25	211	14	79	171	141	97	8	36
1903 ...	81	30	45	...	...	23	164	7	26	181	100	95	11	18
1904 ...	99	31	53	...	...	42	203	10	28	172	144	97	20	27
1905 ...														
1906 ...														
1907 ...														
1908 ...														
1909 ...														
1910 ...														
1911 ...														
1912 ...														
1913 ...														

TABLE VIII.—*Cognizable crime.*

Year.	Number of cases investigated by police—			Number of persons—		
	Suo motu.	By orders of magistrate.	Sent up for trial.	Tried.	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1898	2,083	13	1,320	1,723	254	1,468
1899	1,950	...	1,047	1,363	222	1,138
1900	2,151	34	1,030	1,541	270	1,270
1901	1,855	21	936	1,428	316	1,110
1902	1,923	13	960	1,285	154	1,122
1903	1,618	11	987	2,196	381	1,459
1904	1,696	2	1,024	2,074	361	1,325
1905						
1906						
1907						
1908						
1909						
1910						
1911						
1912						

NOTE.—Columns 2 and 3 should show cases instituted during the year.

TABLE IX.—*Revenue demand at successive settlements.*

Pargana.	Year of settlement.				
	1859.	1869—72.	1873, revision.	1900—1902.	
	1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	
Gonda ...	2,51,064	4,13,788	3,49,583	3,90,373	
Paharapur ...	60,217	95,240	77,820	1,04,390	
Total, tahsil Gonda...	3,11,281	5,09,028	4,27,403	4,94,763	
Guwarich ...	1,06,193	1,69,160	1,47,502	1,88,105	
Digsir ...	79,063	1,24,105	1,04,894	1,07,781	
Mahadewa ...	34,469	70,648	48,720	57,844	
Nawabganj ...	38,652	77,450	66,503	69,208	
Total, tahsil Tarabganj.	2,58,377	4,41,363	3,67,619	4,22,938	
Utraula ...	43,965	1,18,365	1,17,100	1,49,806	
Mankapur ...	31,833	57,395	51,478	61,568	
Babhnipair ...	21,586	44,390	39,485	48,145	
Burhapara ...	6,761	26,950	26,470	45,610	
Sadullahnagar ...	24,048	56,075	54,320	65,842	
Balrampur ...	1,19,547	2,37,252	2,37,252	2,33,601	
Tulsipur ...	1,45,003	2,05,360	2,05,360	1,86,633	
Total, tahsil Utraula,	3,92,743	7,45,787	7,31,465	7,91,205	
Total for the district,	9,62,401	16,96,178	15,26,487	*17,08,906	

* Net realizable demand, including alluvial mahals.

TABLE X.—*Present demand for revenue and cesses, 1311 fasli.*

Pargana and tahsil.	Where included in *Ain-i-Akbari.*	Revenue.	Cesses.	Total.	Incidence per acre.	
					Cultivated.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
		Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs. a. p.	Rs. a. p.
Gonda	Gonda	3,88,307	62,656	4,50,963	1 12 4	1 3 1
Paharapur	Guwarich	1,03,037	16,679	1,19,716	2 0 1	1 6 10
Total, tahsil Gonda ...	...	4,91,344	79,335	5,70,679	1 14 3	1 4 11
Guwarich	Guwarich	1,85,870	30,285	2,16,155	1 13 6	1 2 2
Digsir	Guwarich	1,07,083	17,377	1,24,460	1 13 3	1 0 11
Mahadewa	Rahli	55,317	9,180	64,497	1 8 5	0 15 7
Nawabganj	Amorha, Rahli	68,515	11,537	80,052	1 11 10	0 15 6
Total, tahsil Tarabganj ...	...	4,16,785	68,379	4,85,164	1 11 9	1 0 7
Utraula	Utraula	1,41,961	25,502	1,67,463	1 10 5	0 13 1
Mankapur	Rahli	52,686	9,229	61,915	1 5 3	0 11 6
Babhnipair	Babhnipair	37,582	6,835	44,417	1 3 10	0 14 2
Burhapara	Utraula	39,810	8,753	48,563	1 1 10	0 13 0
Sadullahnagar	Utraula	63,092	9,397	72,489	1 6 1	0 15 7
Balrampur	Ramgarh Gauri	2,33,571	50,113	2,83,684	1 2 4	0 13 9
Tulsipur	Ramgarh Gauri	1,86,633	51,579	2,38,212	0 15 1	0 10 7
Total, tahsil Utraula ...	...	7,55,335	1,61,408	9,16,743	1 4 1	0 13 1
Total for the district ...	...	16,63,464	3,09,122	19,72,586	1 10 0	1 0 10

TABLE XI.

Year.	Receipts from foreign liquors.	Country spirit.		Receipts from tari and sendhi.	Drugs.		
		Receipts.	Consumption in gallons.		Total receipts.	Consumption in maunds of— Ganja.	Consumption in maunds of— Charas.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.	Mds. s.	Mds. s.
1890-91 ...	46	61,649	38,776	31	4,925	Not available.	
1891-92 ...	40	62,493	42,024	33	4,625	Ditto.	
1892-93 ...	164	71,997	46,127	41	2,550	3 14	0 4
1893-94 ...	200	61,081	33,554	34	3,750	6 29	2 21
1894-95 ...	126	41,187	23,840	45	6,224	9 0	4 0
1895-96 ...	120	34,458	20,418	30	4,443	7 22	5 7
1896-97 ...	130	25,592	14,105	31	4,550	4 31	7 34
1897-98 ...	122	30,040	20,471	20	5,500	4 5	5 4
1898-99 ...	292	56,711	34,270	42	5,750	...	4 4
1899-1900 ...	276	60,104	30,094	50	5,750	1 22	5 22
1900-1901 ...	240	80,423	39,852	100	6,918	1 20	5 1
1901-1902 ...	204	92,416	35,107	130	8,334	4 10	9 31
1902-1903 ...	295	99,044	37,616	130	8,522	0 39	2 33
1903-1904 ...	216	1,12,841	42,312	130	8,506	...	2 32
1904-1905 ...							
1905-1906 ...							
1906-1907 ...							
1907-1908 ...							
1908-1909 ...							
1909-10 ...							
1910-11 ...							
1911-12 ...							
1912-13 ...							

—*Excise.*

Opium.		Total receipts.	Total charges.	Incidence of receipts per 10,000 of population from—			Number of shops for sale of—		
Total receipts.	Consumption.			Liquor, including "tari."	Drugs.	Opium.	Country spirit.	Drugs.	Opium.
9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Rs.	Mds. s.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.			
4,024	9 7	70,700	935	423	34	28	270	72	7
3,913	9 15	71,181	3,359	429	32	26	246	39	7
4,850	11 12	79,655	3,565	494	17	33	248	36	7
3,968	9 23	69,087	3,272	462	26	27	243	36	7
3,616	8 33	51,250	2,216	356	42	25	224	45	9
3,316	8 16	42,605	2,250	296	30	23	218	45	9
2,805	7 0	33,342	1,600	204	31	19	199	45	10
2,907	8 2	38,661	1,120	253	38	20	211	45	9
3,115	9 1	65,941	944	434	48	22	222	45	9
3,062	8 32	69,279	1,126	452	48	20	220	45	10
3,515	9 18	91,226	1,221	575	49	25	223	45	7
3,951	9 37	1,05,109	2,191	661	59	28	218	45	7
4,351	10 32	1,12,442	1,856	710	61	31	217	45	7
4,916	10 10	1,26,667	1,955	808	60	35	210	45	7

TABLE XII.—*Stamps.*

Year.	Receipts from— Non-judicial.	Court fee, including copies.	All sources.	Total charges.
1	2	3	4	5
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91	35,662	93,870	1,30,336	3,461
1891-92	32,029	1,16,573	1,49,072	2,719
1892-93	31,718	1 20,121	1,52,167	3,520
1893-94	33,136	1,18,803	1,52,240	2,299
1894-95	35,610	1,08,492	1,44,603	2,503
1895-96	30,801	1,03,202	1,34,255	2,652
1896-97	31,347	99,141	1,30,737	2,812
1897-98	30,125	1,07,266	1,38,412	2,002
1898-99	36,000	1,10,892	1,67,169	3,066
1899-1900	35,965	1,15,168	1,63,199	2,954
1900-1901	38,459	1,20,955	1,61,550	* 2,431
1901-1902	44,603	1,30,267	1,77,013	4,489
1902-1903	40,091	1,23,603	1,65,840	4,441
1903-1904	37,289	1,21,245	1,60,275	4,134
1904-1905				
1905-1906				
1906-1907				
1907-1908				
1908-1909				
1909-10				
1910-11				
1911-12				
1912-13				

* Discount only.

TABLE XIII.—*Income tax.*

Year.	Total receipts.	Collected by companies.		Profits of companies.		Other sources, part IV.*				Total charges.	Objections under part IV.	
						Under Rs. 2,000.		*Over Rs.* 2,000.				
		Asses-sees.	Tax.	Asses-sees.	Tax.	Asses-sees.	Tax.	Asses-sees.	Tax.		Number filed.	Wholly or partly successful.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.	Rs.		
1890-91	24,475	46	1,016	1	25	...	...	...	...	441	Not available.	
1891-92	24,242	47	1,246	1	26	...	...	...	...	586	Ditto.	
1892-93	24,358	46	1,312	1	35	...	...	...	...	501	Ditto.	
1893-94	26,005	51	1,355	1	33	...	...	...	...	538	300	82
1894-95	25,200	49	1,162	2	68	...	...	...	...	522	314	115
1895-96	25,825	53	2,288	2	86	...	...	...	...	295	379	90
1896-97	26,195	57	2,336	2	58	...	...	...	...	361	404	127
1897-98	27,685	56	2,321	2	54	...	...	...	...	399	419	102
1898-99	26,984	62	2,488	2	58	...	...	...	...	484	423	123
1899-1900	27,345	64	2,638	2	49	779	11,500	67	7,887	199	331	76
1900-1901	28,135	64	2,484	2	25	777	8,802	64	8,720	261	293	112
1901-1902	29,630	65	2,416	2	25	780	11,507	66	9,948	85	384	104
1902-1903	27,835	57	2,170	2	30	813	11,746	76	9,468	279	380	289
1903-1904	19,500	20	1,613	...	...	190	4,701	77	9,753	77	98	70
1904-1905												
1905-1906												
1906-1907												
1907-1908												
1908-1909												
1909-10												
1910-11												
1911-12												
1912-13												

* Figures for columns 7, 8, 9, and 10 are not available up to 1898-99, as the returns have been weeded out.

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TABLE XIV.—*Income tax by tahsils (part IV only).*

Year.	Tahsil Gonda. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Gonda. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Gonda. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Gonda. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Tarabganj. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Tarabganj. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Tarabganj. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Tarabganj. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Utraula. Under Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Utraula. Under Rs. 2,000. Tax.	Tahsil Utraula. Over Rs. 2,000. Assessees.	Tahsil Utraula. Over Rs. 2,000. Tax.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.		Rs.
1899-1900...	256	3,976	16	1,464	241	3,424	35	2,702	282	4,100	16	3,721
1900-1901..	259	3,236	19	1,796	233	1,679	32	3,060	285	3,887	13	3,864
1901-1902...	276	3,975	22	2,103	231	3,629	29	2,619	273	3,903	15	5,226
1902-1903...	301	4,316	25	2,351	222	3,412	33	3,453	290	4,018	18	3,664
1903-1904...	73	1,814	27	2,253	57	1,425	28	3,231	60	1,462	22	4,269
1904-1905...												
1905-1906...												
1906-1907...												
1907-1908...												
1908-1909...												
1909-10 ...												
1910-11 ...												
1911-12 ...												
1912-13 ...												

Table XV.—*District board.*

Year.	Receipts.							Expenditure.									
	Education.	Medical.	Scientific, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Civil works.	Pounds.	Ferries.	Total expenditure.	Contributions to provincial funds.	General administration.	Education.	Medical.	Scientific, &c.	Miscellaneous.	Civil works.	Pounds.	Debt.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	3,336	470	...	618	53	...	...	1,03,077	...	1,060	27,109	8,390	...	776	65,742	...	...
1891-92 ...	3,873	2,647	...	334	8	7,119	...	96,448	...	1,083	27,521	7,618	...	445	59,781	...	...
1892-93 ...	3,778	1,651	...	274	...	6,336	...	92,734	...	1,088	27,328	9,217	...	979	54,122	...	...
1893-94 ...	3,897	2,629	...	584	8	7,068	...	99,433	...	1,091	28,179	9,058	...	1,051	60,054	...	...
1894-95 ...	3,591	1,755	...	283	8	2,630	...	96,973	...	1,085	28,720	10,133	...	1,037	55,998	...	...
1895-96 ...	3,823	1,251	...	286	698	3,167	...	95,440	...	1,420	28,371	9,786	...	378	55,485	...	...
1896-97 ...	4,047	2,341	...	360	1,154	3,776	...	89,500	...	1,403	27,863	9,987	...	252	49,995	...	...
1897-98 ...	4,141	2,234	...	1,345	1,212	2,978	...	1,00,859	7,443	1,444	27,836	10,933	600	...	52,603	...	...
1898-99 ...	5,313	2,468	...	1,327	1,200	2,999	...	98,708	...	1,938	28,810	10,895	628	...	55,587	...	850
1899-1900...	5,851	1,989	...	1,241	1,710	* 7,205	†8,535	1,09,220	...	2,106	31,032	10,789	829	48	60,226	4,190	...
1900-1901...	6,496	2,104	...	4,424	1,907	6,589	12,583	1,18,832	...	2,329	33,031	12,868	958	1,269	66,058	2,319	...
1901-1902...	7,513	2,527	...	2,792	1,545	6,274	14,070	1,21,848	...	2,325	33,585	12,361	1,016	2,759	67,537	2,265	...
1902-1903...	7,309	2,297	...	3,012	1,641	7,325	11,815	1,79,809	...	2,600	36,792	12,127	1,012	1,694	1,21,453	2,631	1,500
1903-1904...	6,822	3,969	9	2,446	2,360	8,427	17,132	1,65,188	...	2,432	38,897	13,898	1,100	2,641	1,01,962	2,708	1,550
1904-1905...																	
1905-1906...																	
1906-1907...																	
1907-1908...																	
1908-1909...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

* Formerly net receipts only were shown. From this year receipts and also expenditure are given.
† From this year the gross receipts from ferries were for the first time credited to the district board.

TABLE XVI.—*Municipality of Gonda.*

Year.	Income. Octroi.	Tax on houses and lands.	Other taxes.	Rents.	Loans.	Other sources.	Total.	Expenditure. Administration and collection of taxes.	Public safety.	Water supply and drainage. Capital.	Water supply and drainage. Maintenance.	Conservancy.	Hospitals and dispensaries.	Public works.	Public instruction.	Other heads.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	10,887	...	2	1,616	...	6,371	18,876	4,246	2,176	404	1,694	5,064	547	3,714	678	1,722	20,245
1891-92 ...	11,247	...	...	4,983	...	3,026	19,256	3,793	2,591	...	1,995	5,437	1,244	998	648	2,489	19,195
1892-93 ...	12,405	...	...	381	...	7,177	19,963	3,165	2,721	1,533	346	3,789	761	4,078	648	2,002	19,043
1893-94 ...	11,478	...	...	325	...	4,927	16,730	2,836	2,908	1,838	382	4,018	980	3,452	660	2,788	19,862
1894-95 ...	11,201	...	...	285	...	4,908	16,394	2,946	2,930	1,810	379	6,330	930	1,332	653	2,363	19,673
1895-96 ...	11,837	...	...	280	...	5,852	17,969	2,889	2,531	802	842	4,688	983	734	673	2,147	16,289
1896-97 ...	10,294	...	...	212	...	5,379	15,885	2,847	2,636	371	689	5,636	1,112	1,585	758	2,046	17,680
1897-98 ...	10,719	...	...	259	...	5,356	16.334	2,903	2,644	59	442	5,149	889	598	890	2,112	15,686
1898-99 ...	12,106	...	...	249	...	5,885	18,240	2,793	2,556	59	478	4,806	880	886	890	1,808	15,156
1899-1900 ...	12,280	...	...	643	...	6,194	19,117	3,263	2,699	...	676	5,292	880	1.143	890	1,873	16,716
1900-1901 ...	12,324	...	...	2,423	...	4,227	18,974	4,562	2,805	...	153	5,222	1,283	3,500	1,209	1.567	20,301
1901-1902 ...	13,472	...	...	3,345	...	3,115	19,932	3,248	2,796	...	1,489	5,938	1,282	2,013	1,240	4,531	22,537
1902-1903 ...	13,638	...	...	3,872	...	3,794	21,304	3,788	2,783	...	458	5,517	1,342	1,121	1,353	3,278	19,640
1903-1904 ...	11,364	...	...	3,633	...	7,318	22,315	3,907	2,810	14	764	5,153	1,242	3,686	1,352	3,209	22,137
1904-1905 ...																	
1905-1906 ...																	
1906-1907 ...																	
1907-1908 ...																	
1908-1909 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

TABLE XVI.—*Municipality of Balrampur.*

Year.	Income.							Expenditure.									
	Octroi.	Tax on houses and lands.	Other taxes.	Rents.	Loans.	Other sources.	Total.	Administration and collection of taxes.	Public safety.	Water supply and drainage.		Conservancy.	Hospitals and dispensaries.	Public works.	Public instruction.	Other heads.	Total.
										Capital.	Maintenance.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	...	...	3,519	3	...	1,669	5,191	988	1,227	290	...	1,249	50	1,876	...	270	5,950
1891-92 ...	...	...	3,629	86	...	2,059	5,774	928	1,417	...	...	1,436	...	720	...	445	4,946
1892-93 ...	...	...	3,705	94	...	1,684	5,483	729	1,365	550	...	1,122	...	1,021	...	538	5,325
1893-94 ...	...	...	3,827	100	...	6,605	10,532	661	1,457	524	...	1,735	...	5,930	...	1,006	11,313
1894-95 ...	...	...	3,815	123	...	1,611	5,549	602	1,593	369	13	1,216	...	1,066	...	964	5,823
1895-96 ...	...	...	3,782	110	...	4,867	8,759	679	1,403	235	23	4,190	...	664	...	1,057	8,251
1896-97 ...	...	...	3,773	99	...	1,910	5,782	664	1,554	268	136	1,392	...	410	...	875	5,299
1897-98 ...	...	...	3,701	100	...	1,955	5,756	688	1,650	416	123	1,479	...	704	...	956	6,016
1898-99 ...	...	...	3,760	109	...	2,057	5,926	782	1,719	201	99	1,456	...	673	54	870	5,854
1899-1900 ...	...	...	3,868	129	...	2,096	6,093	824	1,661	...	152	1,491	...	866	108	973	6,075
1900-1901 ...	...	...	4,000	72	...	2,444	6,516	959	1,741	...	88	1,473	...	301	459	735	5,756
1901-1902 ...	...	...	4,619	67	...	2,137	6,823	1,152	1,611	198	5	1,602	154	781	299	859	6,661
1902-1903 ...	...	...	4,596	...	...	2,385	6,981	1,152	1,795	...	107	1,949	171	808	302	734	7,018
1903-1904 ...	...	...	4,614	...	...	3,264	7,878	1,141	1,767	...	110	2,186	154	993	290	1,221	7,862
1904-1905 ...																	
1905-1906 ...																	
1906-1907 ...																	
1907-1908 ...																	
1908-1909 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

TABLE XVI.—*Municipality of Nawabganj.**

Year.	Income.							Expenditure.									
	Octroi.	Tax on houses and lands.	Other taxes.	Rents.	Loans.	Other sources.	Total.	Administration and collection of taxes.	Public safety.	Water supply and drainage. Capital.	Water supply and drainage. Maintenance.	Conservancy.	Hospitals and dispensaries.	Public works.	Public instruction.	Other heads.	Total.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	...	...	2,511	602	...	3,623	6,736	807	1,627	73	97	1,357	137	1,502	...	840	6,440
1891-92 ...	...	...	2,535	240	...	3,436	6,211	759	1,457	181	170	1,212	170	1,369	...	1,117	6,435
1892-93 ...	...	...	2,487	282	...	3,223	5,992	637	1,392	125	129	1,126	260	1,601	...	859	6,129
1893-94 ...	...	...	2,525	90	...	3,362	5,977	522	1,355	...	203	1,278	311	917	...	835	5,421
1894-95 ...	...	...	2,483	80	...	3,981	6,544	510	1,504	50	220	1,795	325	1,058	...	693	6,155
1895-96 ...	...	...	2,378	70	...	3,954	6,402	590	1,353	50	270	1,847	278	733	...	751	5,872
1896-97 ...	...	...	2,283	60	...	3,481	5,824	498	1,406	46	503	1,401	569	722	...	794	5,939
1897-98 ...	...	...	2,030	65	...	3,582	5,677	475	1,437	177	265	1,688	438	616	125	979	6,200
1898-99 ...	...	...	2,172	66	...	3,475	5,713	556	1,452	619	244	1,672	361	481	135	759	6,279
1899-1900 ...	...	...	2,229	67	...	3,568	5,864	545	1,280	50	5	1,367	273	653	136	734	5,043
1900-1901 ...	...	...	4,985	1,107	...	1,602	7,694	1,108	1,352	...	80	1,462	375	2,492	146	547	7,562
1901-1902 ...	...	...	3,444	2,971	...	1,719	8,134	946	1,376	...	75	1,345	337	2,055	246	2,730	9,110
1902-1903 ...	...	...	3,652	3,409	...	1,878	8,939	1,220	1,291	...	26	1,500	372	796	267	929	6,401
1903-1904 ...	...	...	3,879	3,418	...	4,479	11,776	1,131	1,283	...	89	4,036	376	1,011	334	2,561	10,821
1904-1905 ...																	
1905-1906 ...																	
1906-1907 ...																	
1907-1908 ...																	
1908-1909 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

* Reduced to a notified area on 1st April 1904.

Table XVI.—*Municipality of Utraula.**

Year.	Income.							Expenditure.									
	Octroi.	Tax on houses and lands.	Other taxes.	Rents.	Loans.	Other sources.	Total.	Administration and collection of taxes.	Public safety.	Water supply and drainage.		Conservancy.	Hospitals and dispensaries.	Public works.	Public instruction.	Other heads.	Total.
										Capital.	Maintenance.						
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1890-91 ...	...	...	2,234	614	...	1,100	3,948	612	919	...	155	899	120	646	...	314	3,665
1891-92 ...	...	...	2,203	61	...	1,234	3,498	692	735	37	273	1,004	120	502	...	515	3,878
1892-93 ...	...	...	2,311	62	...	1,060	3,433	343	754	...	215	894	142	599	...	463	3,410
1893-94 ...	...	...	2,290	74	...	1,068	3,432	360	887	...	106	728	152	348	24	462	3,067
1894-95 ...	...	...	2,298	87	...	949	3,334	344	882	57	183	728	174	630	24	442	3,464
1895-96 ...	...	...	2,424	89	...	1,276	3,789	402	767	270	62	693	169	400	24	501	3,288
1896-97 ...	...	...	2,380	99	...	1,268	3,747	432	941	389	354	873	176	854	78	450	4,547
1897-98 ...	...	...	2,396	99	...	1,142	3,637	383	942	71	109	858	181	389	194	526	3,653
1898-99 ...	...	...	2,398	99	...	1,109	3,606	468	893	48	98	943	166	107	404	572	3,699
1899-1900 ...	...	...	2,057	88	...	1,183	3,328	419	878	...	2	855	180	4	465	601	3,404
1900-1901 ...	...	...	1,920	90	...	970	2,980	377	708	...	64	705	183	36	417	338	2,828
1901-1902 ...	...	...	1,907	89	...	1,279	3,275	428	715	36	28	703	99	23	487	347	2,866
1902-1903 ...	...	...	1,963	84	...	1,505	3.552	399	679	44	42	674	69	93	484	427	2,911
1903-1904 ...	...	...	1,988	87	...	3,373	5,448	341	693	9	1,145	796	69	242	449	363	4,107
1904-1905 ...																	
1905-1906 ...																	
1906-1907 ...																	
1907-1908 ...																	
1908-1909 ...																	
1909-10 ...																	
1910-11 ...																	
1911-12 ...																	
1912-13 ...																	
1913-14 ...																	

* Reduced to a notified area on 1st April 1904.

TABLE XVII.—*Distribution of police*, 1904.

Thana.	Sub-inspectors.	Head constables.	Constables.	Municipal police.	Town police.	Rural police.	Road police.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Gonda ...	3	1	16	35	...	224	...
Tarabganj ...	3	1	14	...	...	217	...
Utraula ...	3	1	15	12	...	323	4
Balrampur ...	2	1	16	26	...	149	2
Colonelganj ...	3	1	9	...	12	230	...
Wazirganj ...	2	1	9	...	...	91	...
Sadullahnagar...	2	1	9	...	...	153	6
Itiathok ...	2	1	9	...	5	223	...
Tulsipur ...	2	1	9	...	...	214	...
Katra ...	2	1	9	...	4	155	...
Nawabganj ...	2	1	9	18	...	88	...
Andhiari ...	2	1	9	...	...	161	12
Paraspur ...	2	1	9	...	...	136	...
Srinagar ...	1	1	9	...	...	118	...
Lalia ...	1	1	9	...	...	157	...
Pachperwa ...	1	1	9	...	...	*122	...
Birpur ...	1	1	8	...	...	†125	2
Civil reserve ...	6	19	89	...	...	...	...
Armed police ...	1	14	95	...	...	...	...
Total ...	41	50	361	91	21	2,886	26

* Excludes one chaukidar paid by Forest department.
† " " zamindars.

TABLE XVIII.—*Education.*

Year.	Total.			Secondary education.			Primary education.		
	Schools and colleges.	Scholars.		Schools.	Scholars.		Schools.	Scholars.	
		Males.	Fe-males.		Males.	Fe-males.		Males.	Fe-males.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1896-97 ...	118	4,889	109	9	786	58	107	4,004	51
1897-98 ...	121	5,115	178	9	801	68	110	4,218	110
1898-99 ...	128	5,546	181	9	819	66	119	4,727	115
1899-1900 ...	139	6,394	298	9	880	62	130	5,514	236
1900-1901 ...	144	6,297	221	8	800	64	136	5,497	157
1901-1902 ...	152	7,258	219	9	976	6	142	6,238	213
1902-1903 ...	176	8,630	180	7	994	19	169	7,636	161
1903-1904 ...	184	9,140	182	7	949	3	177	8,191	179
1904-1905 ...									
1905-1906 ...									
1906-1907 ...									
1907-1908 ...									
1908-1909 ...									
1909-10 ...									
1910-11 ...									
1911-12 ...									
1912-13 ...									
1913-14 ...									

Schools, 1904.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.*
		A.—Secondary.		
Gonda...	Gonda...	Gonda	High school ...	213
		Do. Naushahra ...	Ditto branch,	
		Do. Raja-ka-muhalla ...	Ditto ditto,	
		Do. Golaganj mission...	Middle vernacular aided.	61
Utraula	Utraula ...	Utraula	Middle vernacular.	86
	Balrampur.	Balrampur	High school ...	188
Tarabganj.	Nawabganj.	Nawabganj	Middle vernacular.	94
	Guwarich.	Paraspur	Ditto ...	113
		Colonelganj	Ditto ...	108
		B.—Primary.		
Gonda...	Gonda,	Gonda, Imambara kalan...	Upper primary aided.	38
		Do., muhalla Mahabrahmanan.	Ditto ...	20
		Do., muhalla Bankatwa,	Lower primary aided.	22
		Do., Ramdas patshala ...	Ditto ...	25
		Do.	Lower primary girls.'	21
		Dhanepur	Upper primary ...	47
		Khargupur	Ditto ...	68
		Khurasa	Ditto ...	50
		Mahnon	Ditto ...	61
		Ayah	Ditto ...	53
		Karwapara	Ditto ...	26
		Forbesganj	Ditto ...	45
		Rajgarh	Ditto ...	45
		Pharenda	Ditto ...	28
		Dubha bazar	Ditto ...	27
		Bangain	Ditto ...	49
		Deoria Alawal ...	Lower primary ...	21
		Bankasia	Ditto ...	25
		Maharajganj	Ditto ...	27
		Srinagar	Ditto ...	20
		Bishanpur Bairia ...	Ditto ...	11
		Ramnagar	Ditto ...	22
		Gilauli	Ditto ...	12
		Narainpur kalan ...	Ditto ...	27
		Ujaini kalan	Ditto ...	14
		Kamrawan	Ditto ...	32
		Munderwa	Ditto ...	23
		Para sarai	Ditto ...	34
		Kuchwa	Ditto ...	23
		Dubha Rai †	Ditto ...	24

* The figures are for the month of October.
† Court of Wards' school.

SCHOOLS, 1904—*(continued)*.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
		B.—Primary—(contd.).		
Gonda—*(concluded)*.	Gonda—*(concluded)*.	Matwaria *	Lower primary ...	39
		Sheikhapur	Upper primary aided.	24
		Bargaon (mission) ...	Ditto ...	34
		Kauria bazar... ...	Lower primary aided.	29
		Banghusra	Ditto ...	9
		Bilwa bazar	Ditto ...	24
		Siswaria	Ditto ...	20
		Ramanpur	Ditto ...	25
		Raniapur	Ditto ...	19
		Lalnagar	Ditto ...	28
		Tirra Manorama ...	Ditto ...	28
		Terhi Bazar	Ditto ...	35
	Paharapur.	Paharapur	Upper primary ...	34
		Baraon	Ditto ...	46
		Katra bazar	Ditto ...	48
		Balpur	Ditto ...	60
		Muhammadpur ...	Ditto ...	40
		Patsa Bhonka ...	Ditto ...	38
		Silhari *	Lower primary ...	30
		Bhamrera	Lower primary aided.	24
Tarabganj.	Digsir...	Tarabganj	Upper primary...	55
		Paras	Ditto ...	42
		Adampur	Ditto ...	49
		Rangi	Ditto ...	25
		Tiwari bazar	Ditto ...	42
		Bilsar	Ditto ...	49
		Pure Mahangi ...	Ditto ...	35
		Darsia kalan	Lower primary ...	22
		Sidhauti	Ditto ...	19
		Barsand	Ditto ...	19
		Umri Begamganj ...	Ditto ...	28
		Jamtha	Ditto ...	25
		Sarawan	Ditto ...	29
		Kindhaura	Upper primary aided.	15
		Pure Ghise Ram ...	Lower primary aided.	29
		Beonda	Ditto ...	20
	Mahadewa.	Khiria	Upper primary ...	52
		Pure Darhu	Ditto ...	42
		Chaubepur	Lower primary ...	29
		Manjhara	Ditto ...	30
		Payagpur	Ditto ...	28
		Singha Chanda * ...	Ditto ...	22
		Pure Panwar... ...	Lower primary aided.	33

* Court of Wards' school.

Schools, 1904—(*continued*).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
		B.—Primary—(contd.).		
Tarabganj—(*concluded*).	Nawabganj.	Nawabganj (mission) ...	Lower primary aided.	32
		Ditto	Ditto ...	10
		Ditto	Lower primary aided, girls.'	14
		Bishnoharpur ...	Upper primary...	52
		Asokpur	Ditto ...	40
		Durjanpur	Lower primary...	23
		Balapur	Ditto ...	23
		Ramanpur	Ditto ...	36
		Tikri	Ditto ...	32
		Tulsipur Tirwa ...	Ditto ...	...
		Bhopatpur	Lower primary aided.	21
		Itimadpur	Ditto ...	29
		Ambhola	Lower primary aided, girls.'	20
	Guwarich.	Rudaulia	Upper primary...	28
		Kharguchandpur ...	Ditto ...	58
		Dehras	Ditto ...	55
		Paska	Ditto ...	41
		Bhauriganj	Ditto ...	31
		Shahpur	Ditto ...	40
		Dubai	Ditto ...	35
		Jankinagar	Lower primary...	24
		Charsari	Ditto ...	24
		Teorasi	Ditto ...	16
		Sisai	Ditto ...	19
		Barauli	Ditto ...	13
		Masaulia	Ditto ...	24
		Dargondwa	Ditto ...	32
		Pure Mahabir Bakhsh ...	Lower primary aided.	23
		Mahuwar	Ditto ...	12
		Munderwa	Ditto ...	36
		Dhanuhi	Ditto ...	32
		Pure Raghunath ...	Ditto ...	30
		Paraspur	Lower primary aided, girls.'	14
Utraula.	Utraula.	Utraula (municipal) ...	Lower primary...	28
		Ditto ...	Lower primary, girls.'	14
		Pind Khurd	Upper primary...	57
		Pihar	Ditto ...	43
		Bhairampur	Ditto ...	44
		Nandauri	Ditto ...	55
		Bankatua	Ditto ...	35
		Qiamjot	Ditto ...	43
		Mahua	Ditto ...	44
		Sridattganj	Ditto ...	26

Schools, 1904—(*continued*).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
		B.—Primary—(contd.).		
Utraula—(*continued*).	Utraula—(*concluded*).	Chamrupur	Lower primary...	30
		Bank	Ditto ...	23
		Itai Rampur... ...	Ditto ...	30
		Dhaurahra	Ditto ...	27
		Husainabad	Upper primary aided.	16
		Gaur Ramwanpur ...	Ditto ...	26
		Materia	Lower primary aided.	23
		Gokula	Ditto ...	19
		Gidhaur	Ditto ...	36
	Mankapur.	Dhuswa	Upper primary ...	48
		Machhligaon	Ditto ...	64
		Maskinwan	Ditto ...	55
		Bidianagar	Lower primary ...	16
		Bairipur	Ditto ...	30
		Dinkarpur	Ditto ...	25
		Raniganj	Ditto ...	33
		Machhligaon	Lower primary, girls.'	16
		Bhitaura	Lower primary aided.	...
	Sadullahnagar.	Ala-ud-dinpur ...	Upper primary ...	55
		Achalpur	Ditto ...	46
		Itwa	Ditto ...	48
		Gokula	Lower primary ...	...
		Kishanpur grant ...	Ditto ...	...
		Hathiagarh	Upper primary aided.	30
		Deoria Adam... ...	Lower primary aided.	25
	Babhnipair.	Charu	Upper primary ...	47
		Saberpur	Lower primary ...	17
		Pair	Ditto ...	30
		Birpur	Ditto ...	27
		Naraicha	Ditto ...	23
	Burhapara.	Barhia	Upper primary ...	66
		Fatehpur	Ditto ...	44
		Qasba	Lower primary ...	34
		Bangawan	Ditto ...	24
		Narharpur	Ditto ...	29
		Baizpur	Ditto ...	31
	Balrampur.	Mathura bazar ...	Upper primary ...	79
		Ditto ...	Lower primary aided, girls.'	16*
		Maharajganj	Upper primary ...	23
		Rampur Khagaijot ...	Ditto ...	50

* Since closed.

SCHOOLS, 1904—(*concluded*).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Locality.	Class.	Average attendance.
		B.—Primary—(concld.).		
Utraula —(*concluded*).	Balrampur—(*concluded*).	Sekharpur	Upper primary ...	48
		Seorha	Ditto ...	24
		Dehra	Ditto ...	30
		Pipra	Ditto ...	31
		Koelra	Lower primary ...	30
		Lalia	Ditto ...	24
		Belha	Ditto ...	31
		Singhpur	Ditto ...	33
		Baldeonagar	Ditto ...	20
		Sheopura	Ditto ...	42
		Misraulia	Ditto ...	28
		Gangapur Banki ...	Ditto ...	24
		Gulariha	Ditto ...	12
		Lokahwa	Ditto ...	28
		Karmaiti	Ditto ...	22
		Ahmadia Balrampur ...	Upper primary aided.	36
		Balrampur (mission) ...	Lower primary aided.	34
		Purnia Tal	Ditto ...	34
		Qila	Ditto ...	26
		Mahesh Bhari ...	Ditto ...	19
		Chuniakot	Ditto ...	24
		Akbarpur	Ditto ...	26
		Jeonar	Ditto ...	40
		Deoria	Ditto ...	22
		Arjunnagar	Ditto ...	19
		Charan Gahia ...	Ditto ...	27
	Tulsipur,	Tulsipur	Upper primary ...	76
		Ganjrahwa	Ditto ...	32
		Paraspur Kamda ...	Ditto ...	41
		Pachperwa	Ditto ...	37
		Udaipur	Lower primary ...	23
		Bhangaha	Ditto ...	24
		Gaisanri	Ditto ...	21
		Madhwanagar ...	Ditto ...	26
		Chaudhridih	Ditto ...	18
		Deopur	Ditto ...	14
		Haraia	Lower primary aided.	21

Roads, 1904.

	Length.	
	M.	fur.
I.—First class metalled roads.		
(i) Gonda to Fyzabad	24	1
(ii) „ to Balrampur	20	7
(iii) „ to Utraula, vide II (i)	14	6·5
(iv) „ to Bahraich, vide II (ii)	1	2
(v) „ to Bahramghat, vide II (iii)	2	0
(vi) „ station road	0	3
(vii) Kachehri station road	1	2
(viii) Civil station circular road	2	6
(ix) Nawabganj to Lakarmandi	5	0
(x) „ Colonelganj, vide IV (i)	0	7
(xi) „ Jhilia	0	5
(xii) „ Kali Kund	0	6
(xiii) „ Mankapur, vide II (vi)	3	0
(xiv) Mankapur railway feeder	1	0
(xv) Cross road	1	1
(xvi) Mankapur to Utraula	24	0
(xvii) Utraula municipal roads	1	2·5
Total ...	105	1
II.—Second class roads, unmetalled, bridged, and drained throughout.		
(i) Gonda to Utraula, vide I (iii)	19	0
(ii) „ to Bahraich, vide I (iv)	14	0
(iii) „ to Bahramghat, vide I (v)...	22	2
(iv) „ to Bilsar	11	4
(v) „ station to Utraula road	1	4
(vi) Nawabganj to Mankapur, vide I (xiii)	10	0
(vii) Itiathok to Khargupur	6	2
(viii) Sadullahnagar to Qasba	5	2
(ix) Qasba to Babhnan	11	1
(x) Rehra to Gumrighat	5	6
Total ...	106	5
III.—Second class roads, unmetalled, partially bridged, and drained.		
(i) Utraula to Pachperwa	22	0
(ii) „ Tulsipur	15	0
(iii) Balrampur to Bahraich	9	4
(iv) Chaudhridih to Khargupur	22	4
(v) Colonelganj to Jankinagar	28	0
(vi) Nawabganj to Chandradip	27	0
(vii) Lachmanpur to Mathura	2	4
(viii) Luchuya Tal to Abkari	0	6
Total ...	127	2

Roads, 1904—*(concluded)*.

	Length.	
	M.	fur.
IV.—Fifth class roads, cleared, partially bridged, and drained.		
(i) Colonelganj to Nawabganj, vide I (x)	34	4
(ii) " Bahraich	7	1
(iii) Maijapur railway feeder	0	6
(iv) Balrampur to Chaudhridih	18	0
(v) " Tulsipur...	14	0
(vi) " Utraula	17	1
(vii) Darzi-ka-kuan to Manwar	11	2
(viii) Bilsar to Begamganj	5	0
(ix) Bidianagar to Dumariadih	5	0
Total ...	112	6
V.—Sixth class roads, cleared only.		
(i) Gonda cemetery road	0	6
(ii) " town circular road	2	0
(iii) Balpur to Kamiar ferry	15	6
(iv) " Katra	7	2
(v) Parsa to Balpur-Katra road	3	0
(vi) Birpur to Dubha	7	3
(vii) Wazirganj to Dhemua ferry	14	6
(viii) Rauza to Tikri station	6	4
(ix) Darsia to Tarabganj	5	0
(x) Sadullahnagar to Mankapur	12	6
(xi) " Rehra	9	2
(xii) Rehra to Bagluhighat	8	2
(xiii) Srinagar to Itiathok	13	0
(xiv) Tulsipur to Pachperwa...	14	0
(xv) " Baghora Tal	24	1
(xvi) Balrampur to Retwagara	11	0
Total ...	154	6
Grand Total ...	606	4

FERRIES, 1904.

River.	Ferry.	Village.	Pargana.	Tahsil.	Management.	Income.
						Rs.
Ghagra.	Sardaha ...	Bargadia ...	Guwarich,	Tarabganj.	District board.	1,405
	Lohrimau ...	Muhammadpur Gurwar.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	555
	Dhanauli ...	Paska ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	815
	Kamiar ...	Bhawan Madar Manjha.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	1,102
	Koelawar ...	Sunauli ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	700
	Sihori ...	Paras ...	Digsir ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	610
	Dhemua ...	Beonda ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	1,365
	Miranghat ...	Jaitpur ...	Nawabganj.	Ditto ...	Fyzabad district board.	...
	Ajodhya ...	Lakarmandi ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Bengal and North-Western Railway.	...
Sarju.	Malauna ...	Malauna ...	Paharapur,	Gonda ...	Private ...	...
	Katra ...	Katra Shahbazpur.	Guwarich,	Tarabganj.	District board.	420
	Kachnanpur ...	Kachnanpur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Private ...	...
	Burwaghat ...	Saraian ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Bhauriganj ...	Bhauriganj ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Kakraha ...	Kakraha ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
Terhi.	Sheogarh ...	Jairamjot ...	Paharapur,	Gonda ...	Ditto ...	...
	Dubha ...	Rajgarh ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	...
	Ramanpur ...	Shahjot ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	District board.	32
	Karwaghat ...	Jhauhana ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Private ...	...
	Chandarpur ...	Dhobaha Rai...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	...
	Bharwa ...	Asokpur ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	...
	Cheontipur ...	Dewa Pasia ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	Ditto ...	...
	Balpur ...	Balpur ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	District board.	200
	Lachhmanpur,	Thakurapur ...	Guwarich,	Tarabganj.	Private ...	...
	Sidhaon ...	Saraianjot ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Butcherghat ...	Chandpur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Ramghat ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Gurwa ...	Gurwa ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Banehra ...	Madhopur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Chaubepur ...	Chaubepur ...	Mahadewa,	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Aili ...	Aili ...	Digsir ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Paras ...	Paras ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Bahadurpur ...	Bahadurpur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Ramnagar ...	Ramnagar ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Ranipur ...	Bhikharipur ...	Mahadewa,	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Ditto ...	Ranipur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Girdharpur ...	Girdharpur ...	Digsir ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Tarabganj ...	Ramanpur ...	Mahadewa,	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Narainpur ...	Narainpur ...	Digsir ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
	Sahjahia ...	Sahjahia ...				

FERRIES, 1904—*(concluded)*.

River.	Ferry.	Village.	Pargana.	Tahsil.	Management.	Income.
						Rs.
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Jujhari ...	Jujharipur ...	Digsir ...	Tarabganj	Private ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Singha Chanda,	Singha Chanda,	Mahadewa,	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Adhapur ...	Tengraha ...	Digsir ...	Ditto ..	Ditto ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Rampur ...	Rampur ...	Mahadewa.	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Tengraha ...	Tengraha ...	Digsir ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Ditto ...	Ramcherapur,	Mahadewa,	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Garsar ...	Garsar ...	Digsir ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Durjanpur ...	Durjanpur ...	Nawabganj.	Ditto ...	District board.	301
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Bhopatpur ...	Bhopatpur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Private ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Khargupur ...	Khargupur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	...
Terhi—*(concluded)*.	Bhamua ...	Bishnoharpur,	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Do. ...	...
Rapti.	Mathura Chuka.	Mathura ...	Balrampur.	Utraula...	District board. } ...	4,350
Rapti.	Kondri ...	Kondri ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto } ...	
Rapti.	Bela ...	Bela ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto } ...	
Rapti.	Sisai ...	Sisai ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto } ...	
Rapti.	Karmahnan ...	Nandmahra ...	Utraula ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	400
Rapti.	Pipra ...	Pipra ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	965
Rapti.	Materia ...	Materia ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	Ditto ...	1,120

POST-OFFICES, 1904.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Office.	Class.	Management.
Gonda ...	Gonda ...	Gonda... ...	Head office...	Imperial.
		Do. town ...	Sub-office ...	Ditto.
		Do. station ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Itiathok ...	Branch office,	Ditto.
		Kauria ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Khargupur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Srinagar ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Dhanepur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Paharapur,	Maijapur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Katra	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Dubha bazar ...	Ditto ...	District.
Tarabganj,	Digsir ...	Tarabganj ...	Sub-office ...	Imperial.
		Amdahi ...	Branch office,	Ditto.
		Rangi	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Bilsar	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Begamganj ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Guwarich ...	Colonelganj ...	Sub-office ...	Ditto.
		Paraspur ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Nawabganj,	Nawabganj ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Katra station ...	Branch office,	Ditto.
	Mahadewa,	Wazirganj ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
Utraula ...	Utraula ...	Utraula ...	Sub-office ...	Ditto.
		Itai Rampur ...	Branch office,	District.
		Mahua ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Mankapur,	Mankapur ...	Sub-office ...	Imperial.
		Bidianagar ...	Branch office,	Ditto.
		Maskinwan ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Andhiari ...	Ditto ...	District.
	Sadullah-nagar.	Sadullahnagar ...	Ditto ...	Imperial.
	Babhnipair,	Birpur... ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Burhapara,	Babhanjot ...	Ditto ...	District.
	Balrampur,	Balrampur ...	Sub-office ...	Imperial.
		Gaura	Branch office,	District.
		Balrampur station,	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Lalia	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Maharajganj ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
		Mathura bazar ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.
	Tulsipur ...	Tulsipur ...	Sub-office ...	Imperial.
		Bahadurganj ...	Branch office,	Ditto.
		Pachperwa ...	Ditto ...	Ditto.

Markets.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Town or village.	Market days.
Gonda.	Gonda	Gonda	Daily.
		Khurasa	Do.
		Sultanjot (Darzi-ka-kuan).	Do.
		Jignan	Do.
		Bargaon	Do.
		Parade (Forbesganj) ...	Do.
		Pendaran (Rajgarh) ...	Do.
		Retwagara... ...	Tuesday and Saturday.
		Dhanepur	Daily.
		Ayah	Do.
		Itiathok	Do.
		Khargupur... ...	Do.
		Bishanpur Belbharia ...	Do.
		Jankinagar (Maharajganj).	Do.
		Kauria	Do.
		Mahnon	Do.
		Dubha	Do.
	Paharapur	Birpur (Katra ...	Do.
		Balpur Hazari ...	Sunday and Wednesday.
Tarabganj.	Digsir	Dhondhepur ...	Daily.
		Paras	Monday and Friday.
		Parsada	Ditto.
		Umri Begamganj ...	Tuesday and Saturday.
		Kindhaura ...	Ditto.
		Adampur	Ditto.
		Tengraha (Rampur) ...	Sunday and Thursday.
	Guwarich	Colonelganj ...	Daily.
		Bhauriganj ...	Do.
		Paska	Wednesday and Saturday.
		Mangura	Ditto.
		Fatehpur (Pahladganj),	Sunday and Wednesday.
		Terhi	Tuesday.
		Barauli	Sunday and Thursday.
		Shahpur	Ditto.
		Paraspur	Monday and Friday.
	Mahadewa	Chaubepur... ...	Ditto.
		Wazirganj	Daily.
		Mirzapur	Do.
		Kadipur	Sunday and Thursday.
		Baunriha (Tribhuwanganj).	Tuesday and Saturday.
	Nawabganj	Nawabganj ...	Daily.
		Tulsipur (Rameshwarganj).	Monday and Friday.
Utraula.	Utraula	Utraula	Daily.
		" (Mazhardih) ...	Thursday.

MARKETS—(*concluded*).

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Town or village.	Market days.
Utraula—(*concluded*).	Utraula—(*concluded*).	Deoria Jangali ...	Thursday.
		Itai Rampur ...	Wednesday.
		Bank Bhawanipur ...	Tuesday.
		Barehra	Sunday.
	Mankapur ...	Mankapur (Raniganj)...	Daily.
		Machhligaon ...	Do.
		Harnatair	Do.
		Bidianagar... ...	Do.
		Bhitaura (Musaganj) ...	Tuesday and Friday.
		Maskinwan (Maharajganj).	Ditto.
	Sadullahnagar...	Sadullahnagar ...	Ditto.
		Rehra	Daily.
	Babhnipair ...	Chhapia	Sunday and Thursday.
		Bhitia	Ditto.
		Mahuli Khori (Bhagwanganj).	Ditto.
		Saberpur	Ditto.
	Burhapara ...	Sahiapur	Daily.
		Babhanjot	Monday.
		Alipur	Tuesday.
		Gharighat	Daily.
	Balrampur ...	Balrampur	Do.
		Shankarnagar ...	Do.
		Mathura Bazar ...	Do.
		Sheopura	Do.
		Pipra	Monday.
		Baldeonagar ...	Daily.
		Niwazpur (Kawapur) ...	Do.
		Gulariha Khazanchi ...	Do.
		Bishnipur (Bhagwatiganj).	Do.
		Maharajganj ...	Do.
		Ratanpur (Bahadurganj).	Do.
	Tulsipur ...	Tulsipur	Do.
		Pachperwa... ...	Wednesday.
		Gaisanri	Friday.

Fairs.

Tahsil.	Pargana.	Village.	Name of fair.	Date.	Average attendance.
Gonda.	Gonda ...	Tirra Manorama.	Tirra Manorama.	Kartik, Puranmashi.	26,000
Gonda.	Gonda ...	Ramnagar ...	Bisramghat,	Ditto ...	16,000
Gonda.	Gonda ...	Katauli ...	Anjawalpuri,	Kartik, sudi 2nd,	7,500
Gonda.	Gonda ...	Khaira ...	Khaira Bhawani.	Jeth, sudi 1st ...	10,000
Gonda.	Gonda ...	Pachran ...	Pirthi Nath Mahadeo.	Phagun, badi 14th.	2,000
Gonda.	Gonda ...	Jankinagar,	Dukhharannath.	Ditto ...	7,500
Gonda.	Paharapur.	Mahadewa ...	Barkhandinath.	Ditto ...	16,000
Gonda.	Paharapur.	Balpur ...	Siddhbir ...	Asarh, Puranmashi.	6,000
Tarabganj.	Digsir ...	Tengraha ...	Rampurghat,	Chait, sudi 9th, and Kartik, Puranmashi.	3,000
Tarabganj.	Guwarich	Mankapur ...	Uttri Bhawani.	Chait, sudi 7th ...	4,000
Tarabganj.	Guwarich	Paska ...	Sangam Ashnan.	Pus, Puranmashi,	7,500
Tarabganj.	Guwarich	Sakraura ...	Nawabghat,	Ditto ...	20,000
Tarabganj.	Guwarich	Mauhari ...	Mauharighat,	Kartik, Puranmashi.	3,000
Tarabganj.	Nawabganj,	Maheshpur...	Manjha Maheshpur.	Kartik, Puranmashi, and Chait, sudi 9th.	90,000
Tarabganj.	Mahadewa.	Asokpur ...	Rauza ...	First Sunday in Jeth.	6,500
Tarabganj.	Mahadewa.	Bhat Babhni,	Baleshwarnath.	Phagun, badi 14th.	20,000
Utraula.	Mankapur,	Karauhan ...	Karauhannath	Ditto ...	20,000
Utraula.	Balrampur,	Bijlipur ...	Bijlipur Bhawani.	Asarh, Puranmashi.	10,000
Utraula.	Tulsipur ...	Patan ...	Debi Patan,	Chait, sudi 1st to 9th.	75,000

LIST OF TALUQDARS HOLDING LAND IN THE GONDA DISTRICT, 1905.

Number.	Name of taluqa.	Name of taluqdar.	Caste.	Villages. Whole.	Villages. Part.	Area.	Revenue.	Parganas in which estate lies.
						Acres.	Rs.	
1	Kapurthala ...	Raja-i-Rajgan Sir Jagatjit Singh Bahadur, K.C.S.I.	Sikh ...	3	1	830	360	Guwarich, Paharapur.
2	Balrampur ...	Maharaja Bhagwati Parshad Singh.	Janwar ...	778	26	629,287	5,14,772	Balrampur, Tulsipur, Gonda, Sadullahnagar, Utraula, and Mahadewa.
3	Ajodhya ...	Maharaja Sir Partab Narain Singh Bahadur, K.C.I.E.	Brahman ...	246	37	199,602	2,09,822	Gonda, Digsir, Nawabganj, Paharapur, Guwarich, Mankapur, and Mahadewa.
4	Gangwal ...	Rani Itraj Kunwar	Janwar ...	3	...	1,887	1,955	Gonda, Paharapur.
5	Payagpur ...	Raja Bindeshwari Bakhsh Singh	Ditto ...	1	...	476	275	Babhnipair.
6	Paraspur ...	Rani Janki Kunwar ...	Kalhans ...	27	22	26,791	33,471	Guwarich, Mahadewa, and Digsir.
7	Utraula ...	Raja Mumtaz Ali Khan ...	Pathan ...	73	5	42,568	44,947	Utraula, Sadullahnagar, Burhapara, Mankapur, and Gonda.
8	Babhnipair ...	Raja Lok Singh ... ... Rani Jairaj Kunwar ...	Kalhans ...	5	1	2,548	1,729	Babhnipair.
9	Bhinga ...	Raja Udai Partab Singh, C.S.I....	Bisen ...	24	3	14,923	17,105	Gonda, Paharapur, and Digsir.
10	Majhgawan ...	Rani Hansraj Kunwar ...	Ditto ...	24	17	15,558	12,963	Burhapara, Mahadewa, and Sadullahnagar.
11	Mankapur ...	Raja Raghuraj Singh ...	Ditto ...	162	13	51,816	37,462	Mankapur, Nawabganj, and Mahadewa.
12	Singha Chanda.*	...	Brahman ...	59	40	51,994	67,107	Mahadewa, Paharapur, Gonda, Digsir, Nawabganj, and Guwarich.

* Succession disputed.

List of taluqdars holding land in the Gonda district, 1905—(concluded).

Number.	Name of taluqa.	Name of taluqdar.	Caste.	Villages.		Area.	Revenue.	Parganas in which estate lies.
				Whole.	Part.			
						Acres.	Rs.	
13	Ramnagar ...	Bhaiya Harbhan Datt Ram ...	Brahman ...	64	29	51,377	55,494	Gonda, Mahadewa, Digsir, Paharapur, Guwarich, Nawabganj, Mankapur, Sadullahnagar, Babhnipair, and Burhapara.
14	Maswasi (Basantpur).	Mahant Harcharan Das ...	Nanakshahi	22	14	16,959	19,365	Gonda, Paharapur, Nawabganj, and Guwarich.
15	Kamiar (Deoli)	Thakurain Ritraj Kunwar ...	Kalhans ...	43	12	27,475	26,980	Guwarich, Utraula, Paharapur, Nawabganj, and Burhapara.
16	Dhanawan ...	Thakurain Sarfaraz Kunwar ...	Ditto ...	33	14	23,119	27,230	Guwarich and Paharapur.
17	Shahpur ...	Thakur Nageshwar Bakhsh Singh	Ditto ...	29	20	20,527	24,568	Guwarich, Paharapur, and Nawabganj.
18	Ata ...	Babu Amresh Bahadur Singh ...	Ditto ...	14	3	10,837	14,085	Guwarich.
19	Paska ...	Thakurain Ikhlas Kunwar ...	Ditto ...	14	4	22,546	16,175	Guwarich and Mahadewa.
20	Mustafabad (Chingiria).	Thakurain Jaipal Kunwar ...	Ditto ...	3	...	994	1,870	Guwarich.
21	Birwa * ...	Lal Achal Ram	Bisen ...	81	8	33,023	36,440	Gonda, Paharapur, Digsir, Guwarich, and Nawabganj.
22	Inchapur Umri (Simra).	Thakur Sitla Bakhsh Singh ...	Gaur ...	1	...	212	420	Paharapur.
23	Chahlari ...	Rani Lachhman Kunwar ... Sardar Jagjot Singh ...	Sikh ...	...	2	578	750	Guwarich.
24	Deotaha ...	Thakurain Jairaj Kunwar ...	Bisen ...	7	1	6,061	5,650	Gonda.

* One-half of this estate is now in the possession of the Maharaja of Balrampur, and the other half of the Raja of Bilehra in Bara Banki.

Pedigree of the Kalhans.

RAJA ACHAL SINGH, OF KHURASA.

- Bhring Sah (Babhnipair).
- Maharaj Singh.
  - Kapur Singh.
    - Than Singh.
      - Ram Singh.
        - Newal Singh.
          - Ranbir Singh.
            - Dal Singh.
              - R. Gaj Singh.
                - R. Kakulat Singh.
                  - R. Sheo Singh.
                    - R. Drigpal Singh.
                      - R. Shiam Singh.
                        - R. Gopal Singh.
                          - R. Daljit Singh.
                            - R. Mahipat Singh.
                              - R. Randhir Singh =*Janki Kunwar* (Paraspur).
                              - Narendra Singh.
              - Babu Lal Sah.
                - B. Chhatar Singh.
                  - B. Dasrath Singh.
                    - B. Ajit Singh.
                      - B. Mardan Singh.
                        - B. Amar Singh.
                          - B. Bijai Singh.
                            - B. Sarnam Singh.
                              - B. Sukhraj Singh.
                                - *B. Amresh Bahadur Singh* (Ata).
              - Ganga Ram (Akohari).
      - Dula Rai.
        - Jamnibhan Singh.
          - Prag Datt.
            - Bir Singh.
              - Sakat Singh.
              - Anup Singh.
                - Deo Singh.
                  - Jit Singh.
                    - Zorawar Singh.
                      - Fateh Singh.
                        - Sohans Singh.
                          - Duniapat Singh.
                            - Jaskaran Singh.
                              - Raghubir Singh.
                                - Jagmohan Singh =*Sarfaraz Kunwar* (Dhanawan).
                - Kesar Singh.
                  - Dariao Singh.
                    - Sabha Singh.
                      - Barjor Singh.
                        - Basti Singh.
                          - Naurang Singh.
                            - Raghunath Singh.
                              - Mirtunjai Singh.
                                - *Nageshwar Bakhsh Singh* (Shahpur).
        - Kashi Das.
          - Bhagwant Rai.
            - Darab Rai.
            - Jojhar Sah.
              - Rudar Shah.
                - Khayali Singh.
                  - Chait Rai.
                    - Abdhut Singh.
                      - Bijai Singh.
                        - Sobhkaran Singh.
                          - Sher Bahadur Singh.
                            - Rachpal Singh =*Ritraj Kunwar* (Kamiar).
                - Bir Sah.
                  - Banke Rai.
                    - Bhawani Bakhsh.
                      - Bhan Singh.
                        - Dhaukal Singh.
                          - Ranjit Singh.
                            - Kirat Singh.
                              - Drigpal Singh.
                                - Naipal Singh =*Ikhlas Kunwar* (Paska).
                              - Pirthipat Singh.
                              - Harbans Singh.
                                - Indrajit Singh =*Jaipal Kunwar* (Mustafabad).

Pedigree of the Bisens.

- BHAIYA PARTAB MAL.
  - Shah Mal.
    - Kusum Mal.
      - Raja Man Singh.
        - Raja Lachhman Singh.
          - Raja Nirbahan Singh.
            - Raja Arjun Singh, *d. s. p.*
            - Raja Amar Singh.
              - Raja Ram Singh.
                - Raja Datt Singh.
                  - R. Udit Singh.
                    - R. Mangal Singh.
                      - R. Sheo Parshad Singh.
                        - R. Jai Singh, *d. s. p.*
                    - Pahlwan Singh.
                      - Duniapat.
                        - R. Guman Singh, *d. s. p.*
                        - Daljit Singh.
                          - R. Debi Bakhsh Singh, of Gonda, *d. s. p.*
                      - Hindupat, *d. s. p.*
                      - Madho Singh.
                        - Sanuman Singh.
                          - Pirthipal Singh.
                            - Brijraj Kunwar =*Achal Ram* (Birwa).
                  - R. Azmat Singh.
                    - R. Gopal Singh.
                      - R. Bahadur Singh.
                        - R. Bakht Singh.
                          - R. Pirthipat Singh, *d. s. p.*
                      - Jugraj Singh.
                        - Kishan Singh.
                          - Jai Parkash Singh.
                            - *R. Raghuraj Singh* (Mankapur).
                - R. Bhawani Singh.
                  - R. Barwand Singh.
                    - R. Sarabdawan Singh.
                      - R. Sheo Singh.
                        - R. Sarabjit Singh.
                          - R. Kishan Datt Singh.
                            - *R. Udai Partab Singh* (Bhinga).
                            - Jagdamba Partab Bahadur =*Jairaj Kunwar* (Deotaha).
                            - *Rajendra Bahadur Singh.*
          - Indrajit Singh (Bidianagar, &c.).

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